[redacted]

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PUBLIC CHARACTERS OF 1802-1803.

"———I wish no other herald,
"No other speaker of my *living actions*,
"To keep mine honour from corruption,
"But such an honest chronicler."———

HEN. VIII. Act 4, Sc. 2.

"——— Hic nigræ succus loliginis; hæc est
"Ærugo mera; quod vitium procul afore chartis,
"Atque animo prius, ut si quid promittere de me
"Possum aliud vere promitto."

HORACE, Sat. i. 4. 100.

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1803.

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The communication of authentic Memoirs for future Volumes, and notices of omissions or errors in the past, are earnestly solicited.

No. 71, St. Paul's Church-yard,
October 23, 1802.

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PUBLIC

PUBLIC CHARACTERS,

OF 1802-3.

LORD AUCKLAND.

THE times in which we live have been peculiarly marked by party divisions, feuds, and animosities; attended by more virulence and rancour, more personality and abuse, than good men would have wished to have witnessed, especially when great characters were engaged in a struggle for popularity and power: and the public pulse has been so much irritated and inflamed by these contests, that the fever of party cannot be presumed to have sufficiently subsided, to make it fit for a casual biographer to discuss them; let him be ever so impartial he would necessarily be liable to be charged as a writer influenced by some prejudice personal or political. If, therefore, in the following memoir of a nobleman, who certainly has not been an inactive spectator of the great events of his own times, we have refrained from entering at large into his political conduct and character, it is because we deem it, at once, more prudent and more becoming to leave such topics to the candid pen of the future historian, and to the cooler judgment of posterity.

William Lord Auckland, LL.D. and F. R. S. is

the third son of the late Sir Robert Eden of West Auckland, to one of whose ancestors the rank of baronetage was given by King Charles the Second in 1672. The eldest son, Sir John Eden, Bart. was representative for the county of Durham in two parliaments, and is still living. The second, Sir Robert Eden, heretofore Governor of Maryland, was created a baronet in 1776, and was succeeded by the present Sir Frederick Morton Eden. The fourth son is a merchant of London; and the fifth is the present Lord Henley of the kingdom of Ireland. The connection of the Edens with the very ancient houses of Widdrington, Fairfax, Sheffield, Vere, Kene, and Chichele, is fully deduced in Collins's Baronetage, and in the *Stemmatæ Chichleanæ*.

Lord Auckland was educated at Eton. In 1763 he became a student of Christchurch, Oxford, by the nomination of the present Bishop of Durham. In 1765 he was admitted to the Society of the Middle Temple: in 1768 he took the degree of Master of Arts; and in the same year was called to the bar, and went the Northern circuit. In December 1770 he appears to have been one of the counsel for Sir Thomas Rumbold, on the Shrewsbury election, at the first select committee that was chosen under Mr. Grenville's excellent bill for the trial of controverted elections. In 1771 he was appointed Auditor and one of the Directors of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich; and about the same time he published the first edition of *the Principles of Penal Law*. In 1772 he quitted the bar for the office of Under Secretary of State

[library stamp, partly legible: ...BERFORD'S...]

State, and retained that employment six years. In 1774 he was chosen representative for Woodstock, and continued a member of the House of Commons till 1793, proving himself during the whole of that period one of the most active, able, and useful representatives of the people, that ever held a seat in that most respectable and constitutional assembly. In September 1776 he married Miss Eleanor Elliot, daughter of Sir Gilbert Elliot, Treasurer of the Navy, and sister of the present Lord Minto. In the same year, and still retaining the office of Under Secretary of State, he was appointed one of the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations, and was of that board till 1782, when its duties and power were, under the act of parliament commonly termed "Mr. Burke's Bill for the Reform of the Civil List," transferred to a committee of the Privy Council, at which the Earl of Liverpool has so long and so ably presided.

Early in his parliamentary career Mr. Eden began to take a distinguished part: in 1776 he brought forward the bill for incorporating the Commissioners and Governors of Greenwich Hospital, which passed the regular stages in both houses, received the royal assent, and became an act of parliament. In the same session Mr. Eden proposed a bill (the act 16 Geo. 3. cap. 43.) to authorize for a limited time the punishment by hard labour of offenders who for certain crimes might be liable to be transported to any of his Majesty's colonies in America. Some provision of the kind had been rendered necessary by the

 revolt

revolt of the colonies; the propriety and expediency of the measure were therefore universally admitted, the bill received the royal assent, and the act has been continued by various subsequent acts of parliament.

In 1778 Mr. Eden went to North America, as one of his Majesty's Commissioners for the purpose of restoring peace. The other Commissioners were the Earl of Carlisle, Lord Howe, Sir Henry Clinton, and George Johnston, Esq.

The public were disappointed in the hoped-for success of this commission, and Mr. Eden returned to England in January 1779, and took a part in the debates of that session, and in the inquiries respecting the conduct of the American war. In the same session he brought forward a bill (the act 19 Geo. 3. cap. 74.) to amend the laws relating to the transportation, imprisonment, and other punishments of certain offenders. He was understood to have had the friendly assistance of the late Mr. Howard and Sir William Blackstone in framing that bill, the principal objects of which were to enforce a strict and salutary attention both to the health and morals of prisoners; to introduce a system of solitary imprisonment for certain crimes, and to establish penitentiary houses. This bill, founded in true wisdom, sound policy, and genuine humanity, reflects great honour on the parties concerned in drawing it, and on the legislature which passed it into a law; experience having long since proved not only the truth of the old maxim, that "evil communication corrupts good manners," but also that persons in a slight degree de-

praved,

praved, in those nurseries of the most atrocious crimes, the common gaols of the kingdom, (to which persons accused of common assaults, and felonies of every description, are promiscuously committed) may be hardened in vice, and converted into wretches capable of the most heinous and horrid offences against the laws of the land, and the personal safety of the subject.

In November 1779 Mr. Eden published his four Letters addressed to the Earl of Carlisle, on the spirit of party; on the circumstances of the war; on the means of raising the supplies; and on the representations of Ireland respecting a free trade. This publication, at once ably and candidly written, called forth a considerable degree of public attention at the time: it was read with great avidity by every man who either mixed or took an interest in the political disquisitions of the period, and gave rise to a good deal of party reasoning in print.

These Letters were followed by a short controversy with Dr. Price on the population of England. The discussion and inquiry were pursued by others with much ability.

In the year 1780 Mr. Eden was appointed chief Secretary in Ireland, in the viceroyalty of the Earl of Carlisle: he was soon afterwards sworn of the Irish privy council, and elected a member of the Irish parliament. He remained in Ireland during a period of much fermentation and anxiety, till April 1782, pursuing measures equally calculated to conduce to the happiness and prosperity of that part of his Majesty's

jesty's dominions, and to increase and further the general interests of the British empire. Among the various acts of his administration which warrant this eulogium, not the least useful and important was his framing and bringing forward a bill for establishing a national bank.

While Mr. Eden continued in Ireland, he sedulously studied the genius and character of the people; he endeavoured to discover the true political interests of the island, to ascertain its local advantages, its commercial capacities, and to acquire a certain degree of knowledge of the manners, habits, humours, passions, and even prejudices of the different descriptions of its inhabitants. In no European country are they so opposite and so different, owing chiefly to the difference of religion, the want of encouragement in respect to agriculture and manufactures, and the extreme distance at which the yeomanry and peasants are kept from the gentry and superior landholders. Viewing the whole with a comprehensive and statesman-like eye, Mr. Eden was able to form the outline of a pretty correct notion upon these important subjects; but, though gifted with perceptions peculiarly quick, and a judgment uncommonly ready, he could not, in the short period that he continued in Ireland, have learnt enough to have enabled him to have conducted his administration with the ability and success with which it was attended, if he had not, at the same time, formed connections and friendships with the first men in that kingdom, those who were esteemed to be the most profoundly skilled in the

science of its government, to know all the local and relative interests of the country, and to be thoroughly conversant and experienced in its powers and resources, its revenue, its commerce, and its police. From such valuable and intelligent friends, the active and inquiring mind of Mr. Eden derived all the information that he sought for, and to these connections, honourable equally to himself and to all who formed them, we are to ascribe the essential services he was found qualified to render the British empire, when he was called upon to contribute all that his abilities and knowledge could furnish, towards settling and adjusting the principles of that important transaction—the UNION which has recently taken place between Great Britain and Ireland, and which promises to add so much to the stability and permanence of the British empire.

Towards the end of March 1782 the ministry was changed, and Lord North with his friends went out of office, in deference to the sense of the House of Commons, expressed by its vote on a popular question decided adverse to the existing administration. In April Mr. Eden came from Ireland, and appeared on Monday the 8th of that month in his place in the House of Commons; whence, having been called upon, as the minister of Ireland, to give some account of the state of affairs in that country, he rose and detailed the history of them for some years past, describing their existing situation, the feelings of the Irish respecting the question of legislating for themselves, and the expectations from the liberality

of Great Britain on that head. He concluded with moving for leave to bring in a bill "to repeal so much of the 6th of George the 1st as affected the legislative independency of Ireland," solemnly declaring that he believed the house's compliance with such a motion would give perfect quiet to Ireland. This occasioned a warm and animated debate of some hours, at the end of which Mr. Eden said, "that as he saw there was a fair and anxious disposition to comply with the wishes of Ireland, he would at least infer that his motion would not be excluded as a part of the proposed plan." [*Mr.* Fox, *then Secretary of State, indicating his assent*,] Mr. Eden, after a few more observations as to his solemn belief "that the motion before the house would be satisfactory," concluded with saying, "that he must give way to the sense of the house, for his withdrawing the motion; but he begged to have it remembered, that it was a deference to their wish, and not the sentiment of his own mind, that induced him to do so."*

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* In order to explain to the reader the cause and nature of this transaction, it is necessary that he should be apprized that the Earl of Carlisle was appointed Lord-lieutenant of Ireland in a very critical and arduous period. The first session of parliament while the Earl was Viceroy presented many and daily difficulties to be surmounted; the administration of that kingdom had nevertheless the good fortune, by an equal share of candour and firmness, to conduct it smoothly and safely as far as they remained in power. A system of wise and constitutional changes was projected, countenanced by the government at home, acknowledged to be highly satisfactory by fuch of the leading persons in Ireland, to whom they

[On the 17th of May following, Mr. Fox moved, "That it is the opinion of this house, that the act of the 6th of George the 1st, intituled, 'An act for the 'better securing the dependency of the kingdom of 'Ireland upon the crown of Great Britain,' ought to be repealed;" which motion was unanimously agreed to.]

In April 1783 Mr. Eden was sworn of his Majesty's privy council in England, and was appointed Vice-

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they were communicated, and intended to be gradually produced. The recall of the Viceroy, however, was so sudden and unqualified, that it looked like a plan to deprive him of all the credit due to him for his good intentions, and to transfer the popularity that belonged to them to others. Hence, perhaps, the sudden appearance, the arguments and motion made and urged by Mr. Eden in the British House of Commons, on the 8th of April. Certain it is, that the House of Commons of Ireland were highly satisfied with the administration of the Earl of Carlisle, as appears by the following vote of thanks, which passed in that house without a division soon after the arrival of the Duke of Portland, and on the very day that the new Lord-lieutenant sent a message to the house by the Right Hon. John Hely Hutchinson, Secretary of State in Ireland, "that his Grace had it in command to inform the house, that his Majesty being concerned to find that discontents and jealousies are prevailing among his loyal subjects of this country, upon matters of great weight and importance, recommends it to this house to take the same into their most serious consideration, in order to such a final adjustment as may give general satisfaction to his kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland."

"*Monday, April* 15, 1782.

"That the thanks of this house be presented to the Right Hon. Frederick Earl of Carlisle, for the wisdom and prudence of his administration, and for his uniform and unremitted attention to promote the welfare of this kingdom."

treasurer

treasurer of Ireland, which office he resigned in the month of December following.

In the session of 1784 he was chosen chairman of the committee appointed to inquire into the illicit practices used in defrauding the revenue: he was also in the same session chairman of the select committee appointed to examine the Reports of the Directors of the East-India Company. The Reports presented to the house by those committees were made the foundation of several parliamentary measures.

In the next session he took an active part in opposing the Irish propositions; and by his suggestions, and the suggestions of those gentlemen who acted with him, the propositions, before they received the ultimate sanction, were rendered infinitely more practicable, by various salutary modifications, alterations, and amendments: an incontrovertible proof that the presence of an opposition, composed of wise and able men, is at all times highly useful, and that a secession from parliament is not only a breach of a high constitutional trust, but as absurd and ridiculous as the quarrels of children who say "they'll play no more," because the dressing and management of a doll is not to be surrendered to them, while the supreme control of it is officially vested in others.

In December 1785 Mr. Eden was appointed one of the Lords of the Committee of Council for Trade and Plantations, and was named Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the court of Versailles, for the purpose of concluding a treaty of commerce between Great Britain and France. That treaty was accomplished

plished and signed September 26, 1786. On the 15th of January 1787 he signed with the Comte de Vergennes a farther commercial convention.

On the 31st of August, in the same year, he signed with the late Comte de Montmorin a convention between his Britannic Majesty and the most Christian King, for the prevention of disputes between their respective subjects in the East Indies.

In these truly important treaties, the consummate abilities of Mr. Eden as a man of business, his intimate knowledge of British commerce and British manufacture, and the true interests of both, shone forth with distinguished lustre. The mildness of our negotiator's manners, his accommodating temper, and his unassuming tone, aided by his adroit management of the various interests and concerns entrusted to his care, produced the most complete success. The commercial connection between the two countries was placed on a footing certainly not in itself disadvantageous to France, but in so superior a degree beneficial to Great Britain, to that upon which any former commercial treaty had rested, that the country was contented to reap the fruits of it in silence for nearly three years, before France discovered, or was pleased to acknowledge, that it was possible for her negotiators to be over-matched by an Englishman.

The convention signed by the late Comte de Montmorin was of still higher consideration than the commercial treaties, important as they were. It involved

volved interests of state policy of the first magnitude and consequence, and put an end to the claims so often previously set up by France upon our right of sovereignty in India. It annihilated for ever, as far as the most solemn compact can have that effect, every question, dispute, or challenge of our right that could hereafter be brought forward.*

On the 27th of October 1787, Mr. Eden, in concurrence with the late Duke of Dorset, signed and exchanged the declaration and counter-declaration with the French minister, by which it was agreed to discontinue all warlike preparations, and by which the court of France disavowed the retaining hostile views towards any quarter in consequence of what had happened in Holland.

In March 1788 Mr. Eden went to Spain as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. On his return from that embassy in October 1789, he was promoted to the dignity of the Irish peerage; and a few weeks afterwards was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the States General of the United Provinces.

---

* In the discussion of the late definitive treaty of peace, in the House of Lords, a question was raised, whether the non-renewal of this convention in the definitive treaty did not let loose the right of sovereignty of India, and once more reduce it to the form of a disputable claim? But the question was so ably and satisfactorily refuted by the noble negotiator of the convention, that it may be almost considered as a beneficial incident of debate, that any doubt was started on the subject.

In

In May and June 1790, on the occasion of the disputes with Spain, and of the Spanish armament, he negotiated with the States General the prompt and friendly detachment of a considerable Dutch squadron to Portsmouth under Admiral Kinsbergen. On the 10th of December, 1790, Lord Auckland concluded and signed the convention between the Emperor Leopold and the Kings of Great Britain and Prussia, and the States General of the United Provinces, relative to the affairs of the Netherlands.

In 1792 and 1793 he took an active part as Ambassador in Holland, in preventing and repelling the mischiefs which have since overwhelmed so many of the continental powers. In April 1793, after the repulse of the French armies, he attended the congress of the several Princes, Ambassadors, and Generals at Antwerp. On the 18th of the following month he was promoted to the dignity of a baron of Great Britain, by the style and title of Baron Auckland, of West Auckland, in the county of Durham.

A few months afterwards he retired from the line of foreign embassies, in which he had manifested a variety and versatility of talent for diplomacy rarely found in any one minister whom this country had sent to different foreign courts, and in the same short period of time entrusted with such unlimited discretionary powers, respecting matters of the highest national importance, though of an opposite nature in almost every instance.

Having thus rendered his country the most essential and valuable services abroad, Lord Auckland re-

turned

turned home, not to waste the remainder of his life in ignoble sloth, or that useless ease which has been falsely termed *otium cum dignitate*, but which is undoubtedly the reverse of it, so long as the mind and faculties retain their full powers. Lord Auckland saw that a domesticated senator in the House of Lords might employ his time and his talents with great advantage to his fellow-subjects; that various matters of state policy bearing relation to transactions with foreign powers, and that much of internal regulation involving questions of the first importance, must in a free country present themselves to parliament, and call for the exercise of legislative wisdom: hence we find him, since the year 1794, not only sedulous in attending his parliamentary duties, but actively engaged in a great variety of debates. Nor has he confined himself to mere public oratory, though his lordship is acknowledged to be a correct, fluent, and intelligent speaker: whenever the occasion seemed to justify it, he has appealed to his fellow-subjects through the medium of the press. In October 1795 he published "Remarks on the apparent Circumstances of the War;" and he has more than once stood forward as a writer on the popular topics which the pregnant times have of late years so frequently produced.

In September 1796, on the death of the Earl of Mansfield, Lord Auckland was chosen Chancellor of the Marischal college of Aberdeen; and in February 1798 he was appointed to the office of Postmaster-general.

In

In the session of 1798-9 he brought foiward a bill for the better prevention of adultery and divorce, the principle of which was to prevent the intermarriage of the adulterer and adultress. A bill on a similar principle had been proposed about thirty years before by the Duke of Athol, and passed the House of Lords, but was rejected in the House of Commons; and it was again tried by the present Bishop of Durham in 1779, when it also met with similar fate, having been negatived by a division of 51 to 40. The frequency of divorce bills of late years, and the evident shameful collusion practised respecting them by the parties interested, had called forth a degree of public disgust and abhorrence, and the more especially as there are upon record, within a very few years, six or eight marriages which have taken place between the adulterer and adulteress. This might induce Lord Auckland, when he found that the public mind felt a virtuous alarm at the rapid progress of an offence which strikes at the root of domestic happiness, and endangers the stability of society itself, to imagine that parliament would receive a bill founded in such sound morality, with chastised feelings and a corrected wisdom. The event, however, proved, that if such were his lordship's expectations, he deceived himself. The bill was warmly opposed, and among the foremost of its professed adversaries were two married peers, not only of the most unexceptionable, but of distinguished character, worthy men in private life, and known to be excellent husbands. The subject certainly will admit of a difference of opinion,

nion, and that difference prevailed to defeat the bill, which, although strengthened by some additional salutary clauses, by the present Lord Chancellor, for the more effectual punishment of adultery, was lost in the House of Lords. The merit of those who made the attempt to interpose this barrier to the strong current of a most dangerous and destructive evil, will not be forgotten by such of their fellow-subjects as deplore the progress of it, and lament that legislative wisdom has not yet been able to devise the means to check it effectually; to put an end to it altogether is perhaps not within the reach of human foresight or ability.

In 1799 Lord Auckland supported the measure of the income tax, and published the substance of his speech on that occasion. He also published his speech in support of the union with Ireland; and in the course of it stated, that he had been particularly employed with others in preparing the details of that business to be submitted to parliament.

Thus we have accompanied Lord Auckland from his infancy to the period of the most important of the many services which, in the course of his long and useful public life, he has, by his talents, and the most indefatigable application and industry, been enabled to render his country. He still continues to act for the promotion of her political, religious, and moral interests with unabated zeal and equal ability, by a due discharge of his public duties as a peer of parliament; and, as no member of either house has had more practice as a statesman, whatever falls from

his

his lordship has great weight and authority, because his speeches are known and felt to be the lessons of experience and wisdom.

DR. JENNER.

"Te mater omnis, te lachrymabilis
Accurret uxor, ne caducum
Orba virum, puerosque ploret.

Seu confluentes forte timet notas
Decora virgo,—tu faciem eripis
Periclitantem, protegisque
Delicias juvenum futuras."

OF all public characters, he justly claims the first honours, and the first rank, in biography, who by the diligent and successful exertion of his talents, most effectually promotes the public good. We are therefore secure of the approbation of our readers, in assigning a place in this volume to Dr. Jenner.

It is with peculiar pleasure the mind, satiated and disgusted with the contemplation of the political world, with the continual revolutions of empires, the inordinate ambition of potentates, the sanguinary deeds of heroes, and the artful machinations of statesmen, turns to an object where it can find repose. On such a theme, the pen of panegyric dwells with delight. Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands. Let others celebrate their triumphs: while we offer the humble tribute of our applause at the shrine of Jenner,—a shrine not polluted with blood!

The discovery we celebrate, is the pride of Britain,—the boast of science,—and the glory of the healing art. The victory we commemorate, is a victory of man,—not over man,—but over a cruel and unrelenting disease. It is a victory, over which humanity will never mourn.

Vaccine Inoculation is, beyond all comparison, the most valuable, and the most important discovery, ever made. It is a discovery, to which even that of Harvey must yield the palm. It strikes one out of the catalogue of human evils: it annihilates a disease, which has ever been considered as the most dreadful scourge of mankind.

A Roman who preserved the life of one citizen, was rewarded with a civic crown. What crown shall be presented to him, who preserves the lives of millions? Divine honours were paid to Hippocrates, for exterminating the plague from Athens for a season. What honours shall be paid to him, who exterminates a more destructive pestilence for ever, from the face of the whole earth?

Wealth and titles are the recompense for desert in arms; for the desolation of provinces, and the destruction of human kind. In a more enlightened age, and a more advanced state of civilization, similar encouragement will be held forth, for those who excel in peaceful pursuits, and meliorate the condition of man:

> Inventas aut qui vitam excoluere per artes,
> Quique sui memores alios fuere merendo.

Dr. Edward Jenner is the youngest son of the Rev. Stephen Jenner, M. A. of the University of Oxford, rector of Rockhampton, and vicar of Berkeley in Gloucestershire; where the subject of this memoir was born, in 1749.

Independent of church preferment, his father was poſſeſſed of considerable landed property in the same county. His mother was the daughter of the Rev. Henry Head, of an ancient and respectable family in Berkshire; who also once held the living of Berkeley, and was at the same time a prebendary of Bristol.

Dr. Jenner had the misfortune to lose his father at a very early period of life; but this loss, which too frequently prevents the proper cultivation of the mental faculties, was fortunately supplied by the well-directed and affectionate attention of his elder brother, the Rev. Stephen Jenner; who brought him up with a tenderness truly parental. He had another brother, the Rev. Henry Jenner, many years domestic chaplain to the Earl of Aylesbury, and vicar of Great Bedwin, Wilts; father of the Rev. George Jenner, and of Mr. Henry Jenner, surgeon, of Berkeley; whose names so frequently appear in the history of Vaccine Inoculation.

After receiving a classical education at Cirencester, and learning the rudiments of surgery and pharmacy from Mr. Ludlow of Sodbury, a man of high professional eminence, he was placed under the immediate tuition of the late Mr. John Hunter; with whom he lived two years as a house pupil.

In liberal minds a congeniality of talent and pur-

suits lays the foundation of sincere and lasting friendship. This observation is fully exemplified by that friendship which ever after subsisted between the celebrated preceptor and his pupil. A constant correspondence was kept up between them, which only ceased with the death of the former.

As a proof in what estimation Mr. Hunter held the abilities of Dr. Jenner, we may remark, that he offered him a partnership in his profession, which was extremely valuable. Mr. Hunter was desirous of giving lectures on natural history upon an extensive plan; and, justly appreciating the abilities of his pupil Jenner, and his ardour and perseverance in those enquiries, he well knew the ample support he should derive from the acquisition of his talents.

After finishing his studies in London, Dr. Jenner settled at Berkeley. His attachment to this situation was so strong, that nothing seemed capable of seducing him from it; neither the offers of a connection with Mr. Hunter, nor the allurements of the eastern world, though held up to him in the most dazzling point of view, could tempt him to desert it, for no mortal was ever more charmed with the place of his nativity than Dr. Jenner.

He continued the practice of physic and surgery at Berkeley, with increasing success and reputation; and, did the limits of our publication permit, we could enumerate many instances of his eminent skill and singular ingenuity in the healing art, during this period of his life.

From the extent of his practice, his professional

duties

duties became extremely laborious; and, as it continued to increase, he was under the necessity of relinquishing the most fatiguing parts of his business. He therefore took out a diploma.

In 1788, Dr. Jenner married Miss Catherine Kingscote, sister to Colonel Robert Kingscote, of Kingscote in Gloucestershire; a family of the higheſt antiquity and respectability in the county, by whom he has three children, two sons and a daughter.

Having disengaged himself from surgery, he had leisure for the pursuit of other studies more congenial to his mind; physiology, and natural history. But, even previously to this event, notwithstanding the pressure of numerous avocations, he frequently found opportunities of indulging his favourite propensity. By the joint aid of actual observation, and apposite conjecture, he completely elucidated a very obscure and much disputed point in the natural history of the cuckoo. The originality of this disquisition excited much attention among naturalists. He was soon after elected a fellow of the Royal Society.

Among other discoveries in the early part of his life, we may notice a mode of producing pure emetic tartar by a new and easy process, which was published in some of the medical journals of that day. We may also refer our readers to a late publication by the ingenious Dr. Parry, of Bath, wherein it appears, that the discovery of the cause of that dreadful malady, the anginy pectoris, originated with Dr. Jenner.

Strong as was the attachment of Dr. Jenner to his

native valley, yet circumstances soon occurred, which rendered his presence in London absolutely necessary. We allude to his most happy discovery of Vaccine Inoculation; to the history of which we now hasten, as the most important part of this narrative.

For the discovery of the divine art of vaccination, we are indebted to a fortunate concurrence of circumstances; talents, education, and situation: to the talents of Dr. Jenner, his education under the celebrated Hunter, and his situation in the vale of Gloucester. His inquiry into the nature of the cow-pox commenced about the year 1776. His attention to this singular disease was first excited by observing, that among those whom he inoculated for the small-pox, many were insusceptible of that disorder. These persons, he was informed, had undergone the casual cow-pox, which had been known in the dairies from time immemorial, and a vague opinion had prevailed, that it was a preventive of the small-pox.

Dr. Jenner met with many apparent exceptions to this rule, which led him to ask the opinions of other medical practitioners in the neighbourhood, who all agreed, that the prophylactic power of the cow-pox was not to be relied on. This for a while damped, but did not extinguish his ardour; for he had the satisfaction to learn, that the cow was subject to various eruptions called the cow-pox, all of which were capable of infecting the hands of the milkers.

Having surmounted this obstacle, he formed a distinction between the different kinds of pustulous eruptions

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eruptions to which the cow is liable; denominating one species the true, and all the others the spurious cow-pox.

This impediment to his progress was not long removed, before another, of far greater magnitude in appearance, started up. Instances were not wanting to prove, that when the genuine cow-pox broke out in a dairy, some persons who had experienced the disease, resisted the small-pox; and others continued susceptible of that distemper.

This obstacle, as well as the former, gave a painful check to his fond aspiring hopes; but reflecting, that the operations of nature are for the most part uniform, and that when two persons have had the cow-pox, it is not probable one should be perfectly shielded from the small-pox, and the constitution of the other remain unprotected, he resumed his labours with redoubled ardour.

The result was fortunate; for he now discovered, that vaccine, as well as variolous matter, undergoes a change; and that when it has lost its specific property, it is still capable of communicating a pustulous eruption. Hence, a person who milks a cow one day, may receive the infection of the genuine cow-pox, and be rendered for ever secure from the infection of the small-pox; while another, who milks the same cow the next day, may have a pustulous eruption, and perhaps a constitutional indisposition to a considerable extent, yet still remain susceptible of the variolous contagion.

While thus investigating the nature of the cow-

pox, he was struck with the idea, that it might be practicable to propagate the disease by inoculation, after the manner of the small-pox; first from the cow, and then from one human subject to another. The first case in which he put this theory to the test, inspired him with confidence; and a regular series of experiments, which he afterwards instituted for that purpose, was crowned with success.

Several perſons were successively inoculated from each other with vaccine matter, and afterwards expoſed in a variety of ways to the infection of the ſmall-pox, which they all resisted.

This happy discovery was communicated to the world by Dr. Jenner, in a treatise published in June, 1798, entitled, "An Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ, a disease discovered in some of the western counties of England, particularly Gloucestershire, and known by the name of the Cow-pox." The result of his further experience was also brought forward in subsequent publications in the course of the two succeeding years; and the whole work has been published in one volume. He has since written a small tract, entitled, "The Origin of Vaccine Inoculation;" from which the preceding account of that singular improvement of the healing art is, in a great measure, extracted.

The same fortune which has attended all other great discoveries, and all other great benefactors of mankind, has also attended Dr. Jenner on this occasion. Envy assailed his fame; his discovery was first depreciated, then denied; and as he surpassed Harvey

himself

himself in glory, so he surpassed him also in the opposition he had to encounter. Truth, however, ultimately prevailed; vaccination obtained a complete triumph, and the foes of Jenner and humanity were covered with confusion.

In the month of July 1798, Mr. Cline inoculated a child with vaccine virus received from Dr. Jenner, which succeeded. He afterwards put the child to the test of inoculation with small-pox matter in three places, which it resisted. On this occasion Mr. Cline informs Dr. Jenner, that Dr. Lister, formerly physician to the Small-pox Hospital, and himself, are convinced of the efficacy of the cow-pox; and that the substitution of this mild disease for the small-pox promises to be one of the greatest improvements ever made in medicine. He adds, "the more I think on the subject, the more I am impressed with its importance."

This instance of the first introduction of vaccine inoculation into the metropolis it was necessary to mention, because another medical practitioner has laid claim to that honour. The practice, it is true, was not continued at that time, for reasons with which we are not acquainted. At any rate, this was not the fault of Dr. Jenner.

After publishing the first part of his inquiry, Dr. Jenner had no opportunity of collecting cow-pock matter in Gloucestershire during the remainder of that year. In the beginning of the year 1799, the disease broke out in a dairy-farm in Gray's-inn-lane. With matter obtained at this place, Dr. Woodville inoculated

inoculated several persons, who were afterwards admitted into the Small-pox Hospital, and exposed to the infection of the small-pox.

It is probable they had also been exposed to the same infection previous to inoculation, for a majority of them had pustulous eruptions. Others were inoculated from these. In some instances vaccine matter was inserted into one arm, and variolous into the other, on the same day. In some instances vaccine matter was inserted first, and variolous matter on a subsequent day. In other instances variolous matter was first inserted.

When such experiments were made, and the patients were thus exposed to the double risk of catching the small-pox, either by inoculation, or by exposure to the natural infection, and those medical men who adopted the practice, were in general supplied from this source, they might well be disappointed in their expectations of producing a mild disease, such as that described by Dr. Jenner.

Dr. Pearson informs us, that he alone took matter from the cows at Mr. Willan's farm: but, not being able to supply the demand for matter from his own stock, he had recourse to that of Dr. Woodville. Hence, it is no wonder, as the celebrated Dr. de Carro of Vienna observes, that a number of persons who were inoculated with supposed vaccine matter on the continent of Europe, as well as England, had pustulous eruptions, and a virulent disease. The source from which the matter issued will account for this event.

Nor-

Nor is it strange, that Dr. Woodville and Dr. Pearson, in their first reports, should represent the cow-pox as a severe disease, and appear doubtful whether it was expedient to introduce it as a substitute for the small-pox.

Nor is it surprising, that selfish, invidious, and ill-designing persons, should take advantage of their unfavourable reports. It is not surprising, that one patient should fall a sacrifice to the small-pox; nor that many should suffer severely from that distemper; nor that many practitioners should be deterred from vaccine inoculation by such examples. But it is surprising, that any one, who had the principal share in the distribution of contaminated matter, which excited the small-pox in several parts of the world,—and proved the more injurious, because it neither found the patients prepared to receive, nor the public to shun the infection,—should claim a participation of honours and rewards with Dr. Jenner. The small-pox is not the less dangerous, because it comes on in an insidious form; nor the less fatal, because it ravages the globe under another name.

Surely it would excite some degree of surprise, if the crew of a vessel, which imported the yellow fever from St. Domingo, or the plague from Smyrna, were to appear before a committee of the House of Commons, and to say, let Dr. Jenner receive a reward,

——— "modo ne communia solus
Occupet; atque aliquem *nobis* quoque reddat honorem."

Of the five hundred persons concerning whom Dr. Woodville made his first report, above three hundred confessedly

confessedly had the small-pox. Whether any of them had the pure unadulterated cow-pox it is not our province to determine. Be that as it may, there is no reason to extol the practice of the Small-pox Hospital, and that of Dr. Pearson, at the expence of Dr. Jenner, and others, as has lately been done in a pamphlet to which the name of Dr. Pearson is prefixed.

Such was the terror inspired by the first reports of vaccine inoculation in London, together with the falsehoods propagated with great industry by certain artful and ambitious men, that it was in danger of being totally laid aside, had not more favourable reports by other practitioners, and a testimonial recommending the practice, signed by a considerable number of the most eminent physicians and surgeons in the metropolis, appeared in the medical journals, and other respectable channels of information. Occasional observations, published by Dr. Jenner also, had no small share in producing this happy change.

He replied to the calumnies of his opponents with great dignity, moderation, and temper; vindicating the practice of vaccine inoculation from the various charges brought against it; and proving, that what was ascribed to the cow-pox, was, in reality, occasioned by the small-pox propagated in disguise.

Hasty conclusions were drawn, conclusions not warranted by the evidence adduced, that Dr. Jenner's opinion concerning the origin of this curious disease was ill-founded; and hence it was artfully insinuated, that his opinion concerning its effects was entitled

to

to the less regard. Such sophistry could have no weight but with superficial minds, or with those who wished to decry this beneficial practice. It has, nevertheless, been employed as an argument, by certain illiberal and envious persons, who wished to depreciate the merits of Dr. Jenner, and on the ruins of his reputation to raise their own.

It has also been asserted, that no one can have the cow-pox twice; and that no one who has had the small-pox, can have the cow-pox, contrary to what had been advanced by Dr. Jenner. These assertions, however, have been refuted by abundant evidence; and all Dr. Jenner's principal positions, now established on a firm and solid basis, evince the accuracy of his observation, and complete his glory.

Other discoveries have been gradually evolved; the discoveries of other ingenious anatomists, published by themselves, led to that of Harvey; but this, like Minerva, sprung to light, not in a state of infancy and imbecility, but mature and perfect, and clad in impenetrable armour.

To describe the propagation of this inestimable practice, is the task of the vaccine historian, rather than that of the biographer. Suffice it to say, that it is now well established in Great Britain, and making a rapid progress through the world.

It is much to be regretted, that inoculation of the small-pox is not prohibited; and that any hospital continues, in any shape, to disseminate that poison. When we reflect on the nature of Dr. Jenner's discovery, which is, to give new life to the human species,

cies, and on the obstacles it has met with from that quarter, we cannot but compare him to Prometheus, who stole fire from heaven for the same purpose;—and the Small-pox Hospital, to the box of Pandora, scattering plagues in every direction, to revenge the crime.

In the Medical Journal and the Medical Review for July 1800, Mr. Ring published the London testimonial in favour of vaccine inoculation, which he first proposed and circulated with a view to stem the torrent of popular prejudice, and to refute the false reports which were circulated by self-interested persons with great industry.

In the Medical Review for the ſame month he gives his opinion, contrary to what had been supposed by others, that the pustulous eruption which occurred in so many instances of vaccine inoculation at the Small-pox Hospital, was not excited by the cow-pox, but by the small-pox.

In the Medical Journal for August 1799, he had warned medical practitioners against exposing their patients to more than one infection at one time; but his warning was not regarded. In that memoir he had maintained that two morbid actions, and consequently two eruptive disorders, might co-exist, contrary to the opinion of our immortal Hunter.

He now gave a decided opinion that no confinement, and of course no hospital, is necessary for this disease, if indeed it deserves the name of a disease; and that if an hospital were necessary for those who wish to shun the *small-pox*, the *Small-pox Hospital* is the last to which they should be sent.

He deprecated the mode of practice then pursued, to which one patient had already fallen a victim; and affirmed that it is in vain we ſhall endeavour to stop the ravages of the small-pox, while inoculation is practised at the Small-pox Hospital, and while the disease continues to issue in disguise from that polluted source.

After alluding to the experiments of Mr. Tanner, he concludes in the following words:

"Whatever may be the origin of vaccine virus, it must give every friend to the intereſts of humanity peculiar pleasure to contemplate its end. The feeble opposition which the practice has met with only serves to stimulate its advocates to new exertions, and to gain additional teſtimonies in its favour. It may now be considered as completely eſtabliſhed; and I hope and truſt it will be one of the firſt acts of the firſt Imperial Parliament of the British iſles to bestow an adequate reward, if it can bestow an adequate reward, on that distinguished character to whom, under divine Providence, we are indebted for this blessing."

The following extract from Mr. Ring's letter, in the Medical Journal for August 1799, will ſhew what objections were urged against the practice of vaccination at that time, and furnish a sufficient refutation of those objections.

Dr. Moseley, in his treatise on sugar, lately published, expresses a suspicion that the cow-pox can only render the habit insusceptible of the small-pox *for a time*. This is refuted by volumes of evidence, and a cloud of witnesses.

He says, "Inoculation has disarmed the small-pox of its terrors. This is refuted by the whole world.

He asserts, "that accidents in the inoculated small-pox are uncommon." Would to God experi-

ence

ence did not disprove that assertion, and convince practitioners in general that no care, no skill, ever did, or ever can, tame that dreadful hydra—the small-pox!

He tells us, "We all know from experience that disease properly treated leaves nothing after it injurious to the constitution." That we do not all know it is certain: if Dr. Moseley has been so happy as to discover the secret, I hope his humanity will prompt him to disclose it.

It is well known that the small-pox, whether natural or insititious, is one of the most common causes of scrofula; and my experience leads me to believe, that the absurd custom of giving cathartics after this and other eruptive disorders, by debilitating the habit, augments their tendency to produce that horrid disease.

Dr. Moseley tells us, "he wishes not to discourage inquiry," and admits that "the object well deserves it;" yet, with some degree of inconsistence he adds, that he wishes "to guard parents against suffering their children becoming *victims to experiment*." My wishes are not less ardent than his: he wishes to prevent children from becoming victims to *experiment*; I wish to prevent them from becoming *victims to the small-pox*.

Dr. Moseley intended his eccentric remarks, which are introduced rather mal-a-propos in a treatise on sugar, as an antidote for what he calls the *cow-mania*. He himself seems to labour under the *cow-phobia*.— He asks, if any person can say, "what may be the

conse-

consequences of introducing a *bestial humour* into the human frame, after a long lapse of years?" I beg leave to ask, in my turn, if any person can say, what may be the consequences, after a long lapse of years, of introducing into the human frame *cow's milk, beef-steaks*, or *a mutton-chop?*

I hope medical men will in future be cautious how they prejudice the public mind against a fair trial of a practice, warranted by observation, and recommended by a physician of distinguished abilities, and not spread a serious alarm, where even the vulgar and illiterate, who are generally most averse to all innovations, and of course to all improvement in the practice of physic, have not hitherto hinted a suspicion.

Dr. Moseley argues as if the cow-pox were a new disease in the human species; a supposition which it is unnecessary to refute. One of the advantages proposed by Dr. Jenner and Dr. Pearson, from the establifhment of the new practice, is, that although the disorder in question is so common, and has long been well known in many parts of the kingdom, *it never has been suspected to leave behind it any other disease.*

In this memoir Mr. Ring endeavoured to remove those vain alarms which had been excited by the reports of Dr. Woodville and Dr. Pearson, and which had deterred the majority of medical men from adopting the practice. His efforts were not unsuccessful.

He was the first who represented vaccine inoculation in the favourable light in which it had been represented by Dr. Jenner. He stated, that those who

were inoculated with pure vaccine matter scarcely laboured under the least indisposition, except what arose from the inflamation of the arm.

Having obtained some of the cow-pock matter, so successfully used by Dr. Jenner in his own practice, he inoculated all whom he could prevail on to submit to the operation gratuitously; and invited medical practitioners in general to accept, in a state of purity, what even in an impure state they could not otherwise procure in London, without purchasing it at a high price.

He has since inoculated a far greater number than any other practitioner in London, except Mr. Wachsel, of the Small-pox Hospital, and by disseminating vaccine virus throughout Great Britain and all parts of the world, free of expence, he has had some share in eſtablishing vaccination; and in removing the principal obstacles to the propagation of the practice.

First he supplied gentlemen who belonged to public institutions; particularly the physician of the vacine pock institution. Justly dreading the consequences that would ensue, if contaminated matter should be disseminated at the new place of sale for cowpock matter, he expressed his apprehensions to Dr. Pearson; who availed himself of the offer of genuine matter, and accepted a liberal supply.

He also supplied Dr. Marshall and Dr. Walker with the vaccine virus with which they inoculcated in the Mediterranean; and Mr. Rush, at the request of Dr. Marshall. Mr. Rush, although one of the surgeons

surgeons of the vaccine pock institution, informed Dr. Marshall that he could not trust to any matter that did not come from the stock of Dr. Jenner. From this source Mr. Rush, at that time Inspector of hospitals, seconding the laudable zeal of Mr. Keate, surgeon-general to the army, drew a supply; in order to furnish the army surgeons under his direction with the means of securing our brave soldiers from the ravages of the small-pox.

These truths Dr. Jenner has always been the first to acknowledge. We lately saw a letter from him to a celebrated foreign physician, then in London, in which he says:

"I am happy to find you have been introduced to my friend Mr. Ring. The discovery, which I had the happiness to anounce to the world, is much indebted to his ardent zeal, and indefatigable exertions, for the rapid progress it has made; while some of those who vainly conceived themselves inſtrumental in promoting its adoption, have in reality, from their ignorance and indiscretion, rather retarded than accelerated its progress."

Nothing has shewn in a more striking point of view, the immense advantage likely to result from vaccine inoculation, than the introduction of the practice into the army and navy. For the former we are indebted to Mr. Keate and Mr Rush; for the latter, to Dr. Trotter, Physician to the Fleet, and Dr. Blane at that time one of the commissioners of Sick and Hurt. Dr. Blaine obtained an order from the Lords of the Admiralty to sanction his benevolent design.

On this occasion, the physicians and surgeons of the fleet presented a gold medal to Dr. Jenner, together with a suitable address.

In this address they observe, that Dr. Jenner is probably no stranger to the introduction of the new inoculation into the navy, by order of the Lords of the Admiralty. They say, by inquiries instituted in the Channel, it has been ascertained that the small-pox has been imported more than a hundred times within the last seven years; and in twenty different instances, within the last six months, by the grand fleet alone. They remark, that it is no wonder the disease was attended with uncommon mortality, when the subjects whom it attacked were so ill prepared for its reception.

The address then states, that as far as vaccine inoculation has been practised in the navy, it has been crowned with success. Those who have undergone that operation were not even entered on the sick list.

The authors of this important and memorable address then declare, that, although prevented by their situation from receiving the earlieſt intelligence of improvements in medical science, they have not been passive spectators of an event so singular, as a discovery of a substitute for the small-pox; an event, which the philosopher will contemplate with wonder, and the friend of the human species view with exultation.

The medal is embellished with proper devices. It represents Apollo, the god of physic, introducing a seaman recovered from vaccine inoculation to Britannia; who, in return, extends a civic crown, on which is inscribed—JENNER.

The motto is peculiarly happy:

ALBA NAUTIS STELLA REFULSIT.

On

On the reverse is an anchor: above, GEORGIO TERTIO REGE; below, SPENCER DUCE; expressing the reign in which, and the name of the noble Lord, in whose naval administration, and under whose auspices, this valuable improvement of the healing art was introduced into the navy of Great Britain.

Since that period vaccine inoculation has not only been generally practised in the army and navy at home, but it has been introduced into Gibraltar, Minorca, and Malta, and into the British fleets in the Mediterranean, by the zealous and indefatigable exertions of Dr. Marshall and Dr. Walker.

These gentlemen inoculated the soldiers in the different garrisons, together with their wives and children; and also extended the benefits of the Jennerian discovery to all ranks of people who would accept of that blessing.

Our brave soldiers and sailors employed in the expedition to Egypt were vaccinated, by orders from the Duke of York and the Lords of the Admiralty. The smallpox was in consequence twice extinguished in the fleet, and our gallant countrymen were preserved for a contest on which the fate of Europe depended;—a contest in which they proved successful.

On this occasion the vast advantage of Dr. Jenner's discovery was conspicuous; and when we recollect how long victory remainded doubtful between the two contending armies in the East, it is not unwarrantable to suppose that vaccine inoculation had some share in turning the scale, and deciding the fortune of the war.

For these important services rendered to the state, Dr. Marshall and Dr. Walker received the thanks of Lord Keith and Lord Hutchinson, the two commanders of the British forces by sea and land; but they did not meet with that remuneration at home which they had reason to expect.

Fortune may well be represented as blind, when she distributed her favours with so partial a hand. For claims more equivocal, and services less important, men have been raised to honours, decorated with titles, and glutted with wealth. When these philanthropists rescued the flower of our army and navy from a devouring pestilence, and preserved them to maintain the glory of the British arms; when they extinguished the flames of the small pox in our garrisons and our fleets, by order of government, they did not expect, after their long, long labours, that they ſhould be offered on their return the paltry reward of fifty pounds to be divided between them, and the barren laurels they had reaped on the coast of Malta.

Among other instances of public honours paid to Dr. Jenner, the following deserve to be recorded;

At a meeting of the Medical Society, March 29th, 1802, it was unanimously resolved, That the members of the Medical Society of London, taking into consideration the very important discovery made by Dr. Jenner, are of opinion that great benefit will accrue to the inhabitants of these islands, and to mankind in general, from the introduction of Vaccine Inoculation; and from their own experience, as well as from the extensive and successful trials made in various parts of the world, that it will, in all probability, ultimately eradicate the small-

pox, one of the most fatal diseases to which the human species is liable.

"Resolved, That a copy of this resolution, signed by the President, be presented to Dr. Jenner."

Ipswich, April 19th, 1802.

"We the undersigned members of the Suffolk Society of Surgeons, having had ample opportunity of experiencing the safety and efficacy of the Vaccine Inocculation in preventing small-pox, introduced and now happily brought into general use, by your discovery, founded upon accurate and patiently conducted experiments, think it our duty to congratulate you, and to return you our grateful thanks for the invaluable advantages that the community at large have derived from your labours; which, in the course of a few years, promise entirely to eradicate the dangerous and loathsome disease of small-pox. Signed by the President, &c."

"At the annual district meeting of the Benevolent Medical Society of Essex and Herts, held at Hatfield in Herts, May 3d, 1802—The undersigned being strongly impressed with the invaluable advantages that the public have derived from the introduction of the Vaccine Disease, by Doctor Jenner, as a substitute for the small-pox, are desirous of presenting their thanks to him for the liberality and indefatigable industry with which he has made it public."

The following is the testimonial of the Physical Society.

"We, the President and Members of the Physical Society of Guy's Hospital, deeply impressed with the importance of the discovery of Vaccine Inoculation, are anxious to express our opinion of its efficacy, and our profound veneration for its author, Doctor Jenner.

"We entertain a perfect conviction, that this inoculation is a certain preventive of the small-pox; and trust the period is not remote, when that dreadful scourge of the human race will become totally extinct.

"We are fully persuaded, that when Vaccination has been properly conducted, no instance has occurred of its having oc-

 casioned

casioned any dangerous consequence, or failed to produce those effects, which its discoverer has uniformly set forth.

"We further state our belief, that the Vaccine Inoculation, from its superior mildness, will not call forth those latent seeds of disease, which occasionally arise after the small-pox, even under the best management; and which otherwise might never have taken place.

"We feel the warmest sensations of gratitude and respect, for the liberal manner in which the author has communicated his discovery, uninfluenced by any motive of self-consideration; and we contemplate the discovery itself as a memorable epoch in the annals of medicine.

"The society presumes to hope, that the author of this happy discovery will meet with that reward from his grateful country which he justly deserves, for having thus rendered himself the benefactor of mankind."

Previous to the passing of this resolution, a memoir on the subject of vaccine inoculation was fully discussed at the Physical Society, and Dr. Jenner attended the discussion on four successive nights, having received an express invitation from the Society for that purpose.

On his entering the theatre, he was constantly received with the most unbounded applause; and as no debate was ever of greater importance, so it is probable, none ever attracted in a greater degree the attention of scientific men.

The preceding testimonial was the result, and a new order of merit was instituted, the members of which are to be called honorary associates. This distinction is only to be conferred on the authors of some notable discovery in medicine.

The diploma, which was presented to Dr. Jenner

by the president, after an elegant oration, is as follows:

"Societas Physica, anno 1771 constituta, et in nosocomio Thomæ Guy habita, omnibus ad quos hæ pervenerint literæ salutem. Cum meritissimus ornatissimusque vir Edvardus Jenner, M. D. R. S. S. &c. non modo ingenii acumine, felici artis medicæ cultura, animoque ad optimum quodque parato, jamdudum inclaruerit, sed etiam Variolæ Vaccinæ Insitione in lucem prolata, stragem hominum, variolarum morbo antehac illatam, compescuerit, imo fere penitus in futurum represserit, sicque, dirum illud mortis telum obtundendo, de genere humano optime meruerit; notum facimus, nos, præsatum virum primum inter socios maxime honorandos ascivisse et retulisse: In cujus rei fidem, has literas, meritissimis tantum concessas, manibus nostris signatas, expederi lubentissime, jussimus."

TRANSLATION.

The Physical Society, instituted in the year 1771, and held in Guy's Hospital, to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting.

"Whereas, Edward Jenner, Doctor of Physic, Fellow of the Royal Society, &c. a man of singular merit and accomplishments, has not only long since rendered himself eminent by his ingenuity, by his happy cultivation of the healing art, and a mind prompt in every liberal pursuit, but by publishing his discovery of Vaccine Inoculation, has restrained, and will hereafter totally annihilate, the ravages committed on the human species by the small-pox; and thus, by blunting that dire dart of death, has deserved well of mankind. We hereby make known, that we have enrolled and incorporated the aforesaid Doctor Jenner, as the first among our honorary associates. In witness whereof, it is our pleasure, that these letters, only granted to persons of the most distinguished merit, should be published. Signed by our hands." Dated Feb. 20, 1802.

The county of Gloucester has afforded a memorable exception to the general rule, that no prophet is honoured in his own country, having resolved to present

sent Dr. Jenner with a very handsome and valuable piece of plate, ornamented with devices emblematic of the benefits he has conferred on the community at large. We are informed, that the piece of plate will be a very large and superb cup, embellished with a figure of Apollo destroying Python. When our Apollo receives this tribute of gratitude and token of esteem, he will drink "Success to vaccination, and prosperity to the county of Gloucester."

As a proof of the high estimation in which Dr. Jenner is held by foreigners, we shall quote a passage from a letter of the celebrated Dr. De Carro, of Vienna, to Mr. Ring.

"Remember me to Dr. Jenner. No medical man ever excited my admiration and veneration so much. He is not only great by the magnitude of his discovery, but he is also great by the manner in which he conducted his researches; by the perfection which he gave to them before he published his work; and by the extreme modesty with which he speaks of himself. His fame increases daily; but I blush for all sovereigns, and all governments, which have not yet bestowed any public mark of their gratitude on that immortal benefactor of mankind."

We have lately seen, in the Bibliotheque Britannique, a letter from Dr. De Carro to Dr. Odier, of Geneva, in which he says, Those who are inoculated for the small-pox, and those who have it in the natural way, ought to be secluded from society, and to perform quarantine in lazarettoes, like those who have the plague; and when we see the united Parliament of three kingdoms granting a reward of ten thousand pounds to Dr. Jenner, for furnishing them with the means of extirpating the small-pox, it is strange it

has

has hitherto done nothing towards putting those means into execution.

> —— pudet hæc opprobria nobis
> Et dici potuisse, et non potuisse refelli.

With respect to the national reward conferred on Dr. Jenner, however inadequate it is to his merits, it exceeds any other reward ever granted by Parliament.

It was justly observed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that no pecuniary remuneration could be adequate to a service like this; and, indeed, when we consider how small a surplus will remain, after deducting all the expences incurred on this occasion by Dr. Jenner, we should rather be inclined to suppose it is meant for the redemption of the town of Berkeley, than that of the whole human race, from the ravages of the small-pox.

It was asserted, that to a mind like Dr. Jenner's, the thanks of the House constituted the better part of the reward. If officers of state would take the same coin in part of payment, half of their salaries may go towards the discharge of the national debt.

We shall here give a summary account of the advantages attending vaccine inoculation, partly deduced from the evidence collected by the Committee of the House of Commons, and partly from other sources.

1. It is a mild local disease; and indeed, can scarcely be said to deserve the name of a disease.

2. It is not infectious, except by actual inoculation.

3. It may be practised at any time of life, even during pregnancy; and at all seasons of the year.

4. It requires no preparation, alteration in diet, or physic.

5. It is not attended with danger, unless from ignorance or neglect.

6. It is a perfect security against the small-pox; and if its use becomes universal, must utterly exterminate that dreadful disease.

The Committee of the House of Commons, to whom the petition of Dr. Jenner was referred, state, in their Report, that the utility of Vaccine Inoculation is confirmed by the testimony of a number of witnesses of the highest characters, and most extensive experience in the profession. Among these appear the names of Sir George Baker, Sir Walter Farquhar, Dr. Ash, Dr. Blane, Dr. Woodville, Dr. Pearson, Dr. Marshall, Dr. Dale, Dr. Denman, Dr. Croft, Dr. Baillie, Dr. Skey, Dr. Nelson, Dr. Thornton, Dr. Lister, Dr. Bradley, Dr. Sims, Dr. Saunders, Dr. Frampton, and Dr. Lettsom.

The following surgeons corroborated their testimony. Mr. Home, Mr. Knight, Mr. Pope, Mr. Griffiths, Mr. Addington, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Keate, Mr. Cline, Mr. Ring, and Mr. Taylor.

The evidence of these professional men was still further confirmed by that of his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, the Earl of Berkeley, Lord Rous, the reverend Mr. Jenner, and Mr. Gardner.

Many of the witnesses had submitted their own children to the salutary process of vaccination; others had recommended it, and others had practised it with the happiest success.

"Dr.

"Dr. Woodville stated, that seven thousand five hundred patients had been inoculated for the vaccine disease at the Small-pox Hospital, up to January last; and half of that number had since been inoculated with variolous matter, but in vain."

"The Rev. Mr. Jenner had inoculated three thousand persons with vaccine matter, without meeting with one unfavourable case; though he had inoculated at all ages, and under all circumstances. Upwards of two hundred of his patients had been subjected to the test of the small-pox by inoculation, and an equal number in the natural way, but without effect."

"Dr. Marshall stated, that the number inoculated under his direction was upwards of ten thousand; many of whom were afterwards exposed to variolous contagion, which they resisted."

"Dr. Nelson stated, that seven hundred persons had been inoculated with the cow-pock, at the Vaccine Pock Institution; and that a considerable number of them had since been exposed to the small-pox."

"Mr. Ring stated, that he considered Dr. Jenner as the author of Vaccine Inoculation; and the discovery itself as being, beyond all comparison, the most valuable and important ever made by man. He believes it to be a perfect and permanent security against the small-pox. He had inoculated upwards of twelve hundred persons with vaccine matter, and had reason to believe, that at least a thousand of them had been, either voluntarily or involuntarily, exposed to the infection of the small-pox, which they all resisted.

"He is of opinion, that Vaccine Inoculation is attended with no danger, unless from ignorance or neglect. He thinks that if Dr. Jenner had not divulged his discovery, his practice might have been worth ten thousand pounds per annum." In this opinion several of the principal evidences coincided.

"The Committee affirms, that those persons whom they examined, had both the most ample experience of facts, and the best means of forming a judgment upon them. They affirm, that Dr. Jenner had not reaped any advantage from his discovery, but rather sustained a loss.

"They

"They conclude with observing, that what Dr. Jenner's gains might have been, had he concealed his discovery, as far as men in great practice themselves can form a conjecture, may be collected from the testimonies contained in their report; in which they declare, "no more than justice is done to the liberality and public spirit of Dr. Jenner, who had rendered his discovery rather an object of universal utility to the human race, than of emolument to himself."

Long before this period, the new practice had been subjected to the most severe test in almost every nation in Europe; and the more strictly it was scrutinized, the more it was applauded. Not only Great Britain, but the continent of Europe, was ambitious to incorporate the illustrious Jenner with her learned societies, and to interweave his laurels with her own. America has followed her example.

As a noble instance of a nation at war spurning popular prejudice, and acknowledging merit in a rival, we shall present our readers with an extract from the address of the faculty of the department of the Somme to his excellency Marquis Cornwallis, minister plenipotentiary of England at the congress of Amiens.

"They state, that a vast number of experiments in vaccination had been made in that department; and that those experiments had stamped the practice with the seal of infallibility. They observe, that the honour of this discovery is due to England; and that while governments wield the thunder of war, the friends of science rest in peace.

"They wish the additional glory, acquired by the result of their experiments, may be transmitted to the author of the discovery, Dr. Jenner. They maintain, that the opposition to this useful art arises from avarice and self-interest. They aver, that

that "the experiments which they have made, confirm decisively the admirable invention, for which they are indebted to the Medical Science of England."

This beneficial practice is patronized by Jefferson in the new world, and by the Emperor of Germany, the Empress Dowager of Russia, and the King of Prussia in the old. France, that other cradle of arts and sciences, has also cherished this infant practice with maternal affection. All nations trust their health to this anchor of hope with confidence.

His Prussian Majesty was the first crowned head who ſubmitted his own offspring to vaccine inoculation. The Emperor of Germany, who had offered rewards for the encouragement of the practice, followed his example.

Her Imperial Majesty, the Empress Dowager of Russia, has deigned to honour vaccination with her constant patronage, from the period when it was first introduced into Russia; and, as a token of esteem, her Majesty has sent Dr. Jenner a very valuable diamond ring by the hands of Lord St. Helen's, accompanied with a letter, of which the following is a translation.

"Sir,

"The practice of Vaccine Inoculation in England having been attended with the happiest success, which is well attested, I have eagerly imitated that example, by introducing it into the charitable establishments under my direction.

"My endeavours having perfectly answered my expectations, I feel a pleasure in reporting their success, and in testifying my acknowledgments to him, who has rendered this signal service to humanity.

"This

"This motive induces me to offer to you, Sir, the ring sent herewith, as a testimony of the sentiments of esteem and regard with which I am,

Yours affectionately,

PAULOWSKY, MARY."
August 10th, 1802.

We now leave the subject of this memoir happy in the reflection, that he has conferred a singular benefit on the human race. Were we to accompany him into the recesses of private life, we should find him polite, liberal, generous and humane; but it has been our principal aim to delineate his public character. It is that which will transmit his name to the latest posterity; it is that which entitles him to all the rewards, and all the honours, a grateful country can bestow.

THE GOLDSMIDS.

CONSIDERING that Great Britain is the emporium of the wealth of the whole world, that this wealth united in a focus, in the city of London, gives action to the industry and intelligence of all civilized nations, and that, so united, it presents a phenomenon unparallelled in history, it becomes a point of obvious curiosity to know what are the means by which this concourse of wealth is brought together, and who are the agents by whom it is directed?

To form a just conception, however, of the character of individuals, it is necessary to possess a clear view of the theatre of action on which those individuals

individuals appear. It is particularly so in relation to the subjects of this memoir, as the arena on which they perform such conspicuous parts has been so foolishly shrouded in mystery by some, and so unjustly misrepresented by others, that it is by no means surprising to meet with persons actually doubting, whether the millions of wealth which pass through the hands of the Goldsmids be conjured up by some art as black as magic, or extorted by some means as despicable as the "*gamester's tools*."

To remove the film of prejudice from the eyes of those who have not determined that "*they will not see*," was the principal inducement which caused the appearance of this article in the present volume. In the persons of the Goldsmids a fair opportunity presented itself of rescuing a most useful and respectable body of men, who form what is termed the *monied interest*, from that unmerited ridicule and obloquy which it has been the fashion of the present day to heap upon them.

Benjamin and Abraham Goldsmid are honourably and extensively known on the continent as merchants, particularly in the line of exchanges.* As British PUBLIC CHARACTERS they are, however, principally known by their very extensive dealings at the Stock Exchange. This market, therefore, is the theatre of which we shall endeavour to give

* Foreign bills of exchange, by means of which a merchant residing in Petersburg, or any other city, is enabled to make his payments in London, or any part of the globe. In this lucrative branch of merchandize the Goldsmids are unrivalled.

the reader a brief, but correct and impartial description.

Trivial as the effects of nicknames may appear to a superficial observer, experience has proved, that an epithet does more towards the propagation or perpetuity of prejudice than even sophistry; and certainly no profession, not even that of law, has been more successfully attacked by these weapons than that of a stock-broker. The whole of this class of society are by common consent as it were *unhumanized*. The buyers of stock are denominated *bears*, intimating that they exert all their strength to *trample on*, or depress the funds, in order to purchase at a low price: sellers, on the contrary, are designated *bulls*, to express their efforts to *toss* or elevate them to a high price; and the unfortunate dealer in this market, who happens to become bankrupt, instead of receiving the commiseration of the world, is hooted at as a *lame duck*, and his retreat is styled *waddling out of the alley*.*

In simple language, the Stock Exchange, which some believe to be a temple of Mammon, containing mysteries and arcana veiled from all eyes but those of the *illuminati* or initiated, and which others imagine to be a rendezvous of *black legs* little superior, in point of morality, to a gaming-house, is nothing more nor less than a *market-place*; the

* Formerly, the place of rendezvous for persons transacting business in the funds was Jonathan's coffee-house in 'Change-alley, Cornhill. From this circumstance the word "alley" is to this day familiarly used as a cant phrase for the Stock Evchange.

articles

articles there bought and sold consist of national pledges or pawns, bearing interest by way of annuity; and stock-brokers,* or stock-jobbers, are the *market-people* who traffic in these articles, either on their own account or by commission for other persons.

To explain still further, however, the nature of the transactions of the Stock Exchange, we shall direct the attention of our readers to the origin of the national debt,† or the funds, or the stocks, all of which are used as synonymous terms.

* A stock-broker, properly defined, is one who buys or sells stock on commission for another. The brokerage is half a crown on every hundred pound of stock bought or sold. A stock-jobber is one who, having property of his own in the funds, sells it out, and buys it in again at a profit or loss, as the price of the market rises or falls. As every broker, however, must occasionally see opportunities of gain from this species of transfer, it may be fairly inferred that most brokers are also jobbers. There is a third class of persons, who may justly be denominated "gamblers in the funds;" persons who, possessing no property in the stocks, enter into speculative bargains to sell or buy at future periods certain portions of stock, at a stated present price. For example, A. will agree to buy of B. ten thousand 5 per cent. annuities, at 100*l.* to be transferred to A. on the 7th of November. On the arrival of that day the market price of 5 per cent. annuities is 105*l.* per cent. and consequently A. gains, and B. loses by this transaction 5 per cent. on ten thousand pounds. Possibly, neither A. nor B. possesses ten pounds of stock, and therefore the transaction between them is confined to the *differences* of the prices. This species of stock-jobbing, it is plain, is nothing more than wagering, or direct *gambling*; and being expressly prohibited by law, no action for recovery of the loss can be maintained in any court of justice.

† It may be useful to suggest the distinction that should at all

 times

Previously to the Revolution, there existed no funded national debt in England. Our princes before that period had generally supplied the wants of their treasuries by extorted loans, the payment of which was extremely precarious, as it depended on the good faith and success of the borrower, and did not, as at present, become a regular burden on posterity. Since that memorable epoch, however, which restored to the people as large a portion of their natural rights and liberties as is perhaps compatible with a social state, no British monarch has presumed to lay violent hands upon the property of his subjects, or to exact even the use of their wealth upon arbitrary terms.

When the annual expences of the nation have exceeded the annual revenue, and it has been found expedient to raise a larger sum of money than could be conveniently obtained from the imposition of any direct tax on the people at large, the method resorted to, has been, that of borrowing from the wealthy the amount required, and only imposing on the nation taxes equal to the discharge of the interest of the debt, which the Government in its name has incurred. Whether this modern system of imposing

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times be made in the use of the general term "Stocks." The Bank of England, the East-India Company, the too memorable South-Sea Company, and other incorporated bodies, may possess a joint capital, which is denominated stock: thus we have Bank stock, India stock, &c. none of which ought properly to be included in the terms public funds, which are properly only such as have been raised on the national credit.

posing on posterity a perpetual burden, instead of taxing the existing generation to the full amount of its wants, be good or bad, a just or unjust policy, it is not our present task to inquire. It is sufficient for the illustration of our subject to state, that such was the policy adopted, that such was the origin of our public funds, and that hitherto it appears to have been attended with effects highly beneficial to the political consequence and prosperity of the country.

By this method of lending the surplus of his capital to the state, the tradesman and merchant who had accumulated a sum of money, found a new source of profit guaranteed to him by the public faith of his fellow-citizens; and, by borrowing in this manner, the Government have been able to raise, at various periods since the Revolution, no less a sum than six hundred millions sterling,* which constitutes the present funded property of the nation.

It may be here very naturally inquired, Is there then six hundred millions of spare wealth in Britain over and above the necessary capitals required for the operations of commerce and the remuneration of labour, that her inhabitants can afford to be such creditors to the state? Or, has not the drawing off such immense sums from the channel of trade shackled the efforts of industry, and checked the progress of the national wealth?

* The present funded debt is 593,679,133l. os. 4¼d, and the unfunded upwards of 15 millions. The annual interest is 21,096,686l. 1s. 10d. exclusively of the terminable annuities.

That the Government has actually possessed this sum, immense as it appears, is an incontrovertible fact; and that this wealth must have existed previously to their possession of it, is no less evident: but the fact which is the best exposition of the above inquiry, though equally true, is not so obvious; namely, That wealth advanced for the services of a free state is not absorbed, but simply undergoes a change of form.

Thus a loan of any number of millions paid into the coffers of the state, though it becomes *sunk* or annihilated property to the individuals who advanced it, ſtill is not *consumed*, nor even confined, in the crucible of the Treasury. It is merely decomposed; its solid form is lost indeed, but its particles inſtantly fly off, and float in ten thousand different directions, till individual industry and talent again accumulate them into new totals. These totals, thus re-assuming the form of surplusages, in relation to the national wealth, are again, perhaps, brought into the national treasury in the shape of new loans, or, perhaps, supply the place of other capitals removed from the great mass of the national funds to be employed in other channels. For it should be stated, as a material feature of these contracts between Government and the lender of his property, that, though the latter cannot hope that the former will redeem the loan, however distressing subsequent want of money may prove to the lender; yet, as his interest or annuity is transferrable, and is always a saleable property, he may at any time dispose of it, or any part of it, subject to such fluctuation of price

as

as different circumstances give rise to. Or, in other words, on account of the peculiar nature of governmental security, both the borrower and the lender have at the same instant the use of the same sum of money.

In this way did the establishment of national funds open a new market to capitalists, create a new field for speculation, and engender a new profession in the character of broker or agent between the buyers and sellers of this species of property. As the amount of those funds increased, the number of proprietors of course multiplied, and the necessity of transfers became more frequent. These circumstances naturally drew together the parties interested, and a place of rendezvous for stockholders and their agents was, without any design, established at Jonathan's, now Garraway's coffee-house, in 'Change-alley, Cornhill; which by degrees grew into an acknowledged market for settling the price of stocks. In progress of time, however, this species of traffic grew into such magnitude, that the brokers erected by subscription a building for the exclusive purpose of their business, and denominated it the "STOCK EXCHANGE."*

* Formerly the Stock Exchange was open to all persons who chose to transact business there, on payment of six-pence per day. Inconvenience arising, however, from this plan, the principal stock-brokers have recently erected a new and elegant building in Capel-court, Bartholomew-lane, to which no person is admitted but such as have been admitted members by ballot, and who pay an annual subscription of ten guineas for the general purposes of the house. The old Stock Exchange has been sold by auction, and

After taking this brief survey of the origin of the Stock Exchange and the profession of a ſtock-broker, no unprejudiced reader can be blind to the utility of such an establishment, or such a profession, which facilitates the circulation of such an immense capital as the national debt, and renders the transfer of a million of property as simple and as easy a transaction as that of obtaining change for a guinea. We do not say that the establishment of a money market is without its abuses—what earthly good may not be abused? In the corn-market, the cattle-market, and coal-market, abuses unquestionably exist; mean-spirited and tricking adventurers creep into all professions, and by the practice of low and disgraceful acts bring discredit on the whole body. But in each of these walks of life, the candid enquirer will be at no loss to discover, that the true roads to wealth are industry, integrity, talents, and punctuality, and that in all the various marts with which the commercial empire of Britain abounds, a fair field of emulation is opened to the exercise of these honourable qualities. In the money-market this is peculiarly the case, as the history of the Goldsmids most forcibly illustrates.

These gentlemen,* who are the second and third sons of a respectable Dutch merchant, came over

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will be converted to some other use. An open market for the public funds is also held in the rotunda of the Bank of England; which is, however, entirely influenced by the movements of the Stock Exchange.

* George Goldsmid, the elder brother, is a partner in the house of Eliaſon, Goldsmid and Co.

from

from Holland with their father, while children, and were by him at a very early age initiated into the first principles of merchandize. From their infancy the brothers were most affectionately attached to each other, and at a suitable age they embarked together in business.

The instruction which they received as the fruits of their father's experience,* and the valuable foreign connections which he had formed, were of themselves no mean stock for the commencement of the young men's career in life, who, to these paternal bequests, and some pecuniary property, added themselves all the personal requisites of indefatigable industry, natural acuteness, and habitual punctuality. Thus qualified, they began the world with every prospect of obtaining considerable eminence in their profession. It is, however, extremely probable, that the Goldsmids might never have arrived at that extraordinary degree of influence in the commercial world which they now possess, had not Fortune, with a discernment the reverse of her general attribute, bestowed upon the elder of them

* It should be recollected, that Mr. Goldsmid senior was a Dutch Jew, that the whole of our system of funding is borrowed from the Dutch, and that the largest floating capitals have always been in the hands of the Jews, whose long persecuted state prevented their embarking in any settled concern, till the general liberty and complete toleration afforded by the government of England at the Revolution, held out to them a profitable and safe market for their money in the newly created national funds. These considerations will suggest the value of the connection and the experience of a Dutch Jew.

a boon

a boon of no less a sum than one hundred thousand pounds, as an appendage to a most amiable and excellent wife, who was the daughter of Mr. Solomons, of Clapton. With the powerful addition of this large capital to their former means, it may be easily conceived, by every one acquainted with the nature of the accumulation of profit, especially in the money-market, that such active and intelligent capitalists required neither the aid of supernatural agency, nor the expedients of any of the supposed tricks of chance, to increase their wealth an hundred fold. As a simple and natural effect, industry produceth wealth—and wealth judiciously employed as naturally multiplies itself, as one grain of seed sown in the earth becomes the parent of millions.

To exemplify this fact to the meanest capacity, we will take the capital of the Goldsmids at five hundred thousand pounds. This capital is to them of the nature of stock in trade, it is the article itself in which they deal—and in selling it dear and buying it again cheap consists their gains, on precisely the same grounds as the dealer in lead or coals buys those articles of the mine-holder and sells them again at an advanced price, which constitutes his profit. But it may be said, "It is easy to conceive, that consumable articles, like lead, tin, or corn, must vary in their value in proportion to their scarcity or abundance; but how can this apply to money? does not a pound *always* produce twenty shillings!" We answer, that money, properly so called, that is the coin of the kingdom, or its representative currency,

rency, bank-notes, have undoubtedly one standard value. But the term money is not at the present day confined to the coin, or currency, which portion of the wealth of the nation has of late been defined the *circulating medium*, as expressive of the nature of its operation. For example, X. may possess the value of a thousand pounds in cloth, which Y. who possesses the value of a thousand pounds in corn, is desirous to possess; X., however, does not want Y's corn, but is desirous of obtaining a thousand pounds worth of the national funds, which Z. is also willing to part with, in order to become master of a house of that value. Add to these circumstances, that the cloth is in Yorkshire, the corn in Cambridgeshire, the stock-exchange in London, and the house to be disposed of is at the Isle of Wight. To remove such obstacles to the exchange of property, or commerce, it was found expedient, in the earliest ages of civilization, that there should be established in all states a universal medium, to express at all times a stated and invariable value. By this medium, and the establishment of markets, we perceive all the opposing circumstances to the wishes of X. Y. Z. removed with the utmost facility. Y, knowing that X. possesses the corn, takes his cloth to market and receives for it a thousand pound bank-note, which he remits to Y. for his corn, who sends the note to Z. for his stock, who again parts with it to the builder, and thus, perhaps, this same one thousand pounds travels from a buyer to a seller in an extensive circle—such was the original use of money.

It

It must be plain then, that this one thousand pounds has served to circulate or exchange property to the amount of four thousand; and from this instance, by following the progress of its circulation, an idea may be formed how immensely disproportionate may be the circulating medium, or currency of a kingdom to its actual wealth. It must be obvious also, that money, or the circulating medium, must be scarce or abundant in proportion to the activity of the various markets, or the amount and rapidity of articles bought and sold. Great demands, for instance, are made for the circulating medium, when large fleets of merchantmen arrive from abroad, which render large payments necessary. Greater quantities still of this *medium* are called for when a loan is made to Government; these demands must for a time lessen the quantity of currency in circulation, and though the money be not consumed, as before explained, still its use is lost for a time, and until it returns into circulation again, there is what is justly termed a *scarcity* of money. The inference is then, that though *money* be not a consumable article, like lead or corn, it is nevertheless a *fluctuating commodity*, and liable, like other commodities, to be of more or less value according to its abundance and scarcity in the circulation, or market.

In this market the Goldsmids have for more than thirty years been wholesale traders. In the purchase and sale of bullion, stocks, Navy bills, and Exchequer bills, and in the negotiation of foreign bills of exchange, they annually turn millions of money.

Their acute knowledge and profound experience in money transactions, added to their unimpeachable credit, and princely capital, the amount of which we will not venture to name, have secured to these gentlemen an eminence in the monied world never before possessed by any private individuals. Nor are their influence and credit useful merely to themselves. The effects of them have been beneficially experienced by the Government itself, whose operations, in very critical times, have been accelerated by the zeal and public spirit of these gentlemen, in a manner which entitles them to the gratitude of the British nation.

We have already stated that these gentlemen are Jews; and if, in the present enlightened age, examples were needful to prove that a "Jew hath eyes, hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions," as a Christian hath, the families of both Benjamin and Abraham Goldsmid might be quoted as moral ornaments to society. With a spirit of princely magnificence, they are free from pride; with the purest and most liberal benevolence, they are free from all ostentation of charity. Their acts of bounty are literally innumerable, and are by no means confined within the boundaries of their own peculiar people, the Jews. The Marine Society, the Royal Humane Society, have publicly expressed their gratitude to the Goldsmids: and there are few charitable institutions or benevolent subscriptions known in this metropolis, where the name of Goldsmids, the Jews, does not rank as high in generosity as the most dignified Christians.

These gentlemen are also honourably distinguished as the lovers and patrons of literature. Among the Jews, they are honoured and beloved; and their zealous interest in the welfare of the poor of their own nation has lately been the subject of several pamphlets.

In their manners, there is nothing to be found of that studied and ridiculous reserve remarkable in many little-minded men, in great and important situations of life: on the contrary, the most striking features of their character are candour, frankness, and affability. Their establishments are suitable to their great wealth, and their families are admitted into the very first circles. On a late visit which the Royal family paid to Mr. B. Goldsmid, at his elegant villa at Roehampton, his Majesty, in introducing these brothers to the Queen, expressed himself in terms so gracious as to denominete them *his friends*. We believe them entitled to the epithet; and as, in a free country like ours, the friend of the monarch is the friend of the people, we consider the title as reflecting honour on the sovereign who bestowed it, and on the subjects who deserved it.

S.

Dr. WILLIAM VINCENT,

DEAN OF WESTMINSTER.

THERE are few situations of greater importance to society than that of the head of a public school; and he who discharges that trust well, is entitled to the gratitude of his countrymen. Of all the great seminaries of education in this kingdom, Westmin-

ster certainly bears the precedence; and it has been her lot to have had a brilliant series of learned men to keep up her interest and reputation. The subject of this brief sketch will be found not inferior to any of these either in learning, suavity of manners, or vigilance in his arduous office. The ancestors of Dr. Vincent long enjoyed a good estate at Sheepy, near Atherston, in Leicestershire. His grandfather, who was a considerable farmer at that place, having a large family, placed his youngest son, Giles Vincent, apprentice to a tradesman in London. This person afterwards set up in business for himself, and was common council-man and deputy of the ward of Lime-street for about the space of thirty years.

He had a family of five children, of whom Dr. Vincent, the youngest, was born on November the 2d, 1739. Being designed for the church, of which his father was a very orthodox and zealous member, he was sent to Westminster school, and, in 1753, was admitted on the foundation. In 1757, he was elected to Trinity College, Cambridge, where, in 1761, he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and the year following was chosen usher of Westminster school. In 1764, he took the degree of Master of Arts, and, in 1776, that of Doctor of Divinity. In 1778, he was presented to the Rectory of Allhallows the Great and Less; and, about the same time, was appointed Chaplain to his Majesty. When Dr. Markham became archbishop of York, he appointed his friend Dr. Vincent to be sub-almoner, an office which he continues to hold. In 1788, he became head master of

Westminster

Westminster school, but his church preferments were very narrow till, about the beginning of last year, he obtained what he had long desired and deserved, a prebendal stall in the cathedral of Westminster. Mr. Addington, much to his honour, has, during his administration, paid a particular attention to merit in the disposal of ecclesiastical dignities. Thus he has raised the learned warden of Winchester, Dr. Huntingford, to the episcopal bench; and, when the deanry of Westminster became vacant by the translation of that profound scholar and divine, Dr. Horsley, to the see of St. Asaph, he bestowed it upon Dr. Vincent, who is thereby in a direct channel to a bishopric, a station which he will doubtless fill with as much honour as he hath uniformly done every other in the church.

We now turn to view him as a writer, in which light he will appear not less respectable than in his religious character.

In 1780, he published, but without his name, "A Letter to the reverend Dr. Richard Watson, (now bishop of Llandaff), king's professor of divinity in the university of Cambridge, 8vo." This pamphlet contained a refutation of some political positions advanced by the professor in a sermon preached before the university. In 1787, the Doctor printed "Considerations on Parochial Music, 8vo." a tract of considerable ingenuity. In 1789, he preached and published "A Sermon before the Sons of the Clergy, 4to." and, in 1792, "A Sermon preached at St. Margaret's, Westminster, for the Grey-coat school of

that parish." In this discourse the Doctor entered into a description of the notions then so generally circulated respecting the natural *liberty* and *equality* of men in society, which he combated with so much energy and argument, that the association at the Crown and Anchor, set on foot by the noted John Reeves, applied to the Doctor for leave to print and circulate a cheap edition of it. This was granted, and above twenty thousand copies of the sermon were dispersed in and about London, besides great numbers in various parts of the kingdom. It was also reprinted at Bath, Canterbury, Gloucester, and other places; a sufficient and very honourable testimony of its accommodation to the feelings of the times.

His next performance was entitled, "The Origination of the Greek Verb and Hypothesis, 8vo." which, however, in the second edition, was altered to this, "The Greek Verb Analyzed." That there is much learning and considerable acuteness displayed in the discussion of the subject, must be allowed by all who are competent to judge of it; but it must also be acknowledged, that there is a good deal of fancy in the Doctor's essay, and that he assumes more than will easily be granted by the sober philologist. This pamphlet was answered with much asperity, but, at the same time, with some humour and success, in a piece entitled "Hermes Unmasked."

Our author's next publication was a dissertation "De Legione Manliana Quæstio, ex Livio desumpta, et rei Militares Romanæ Studiosis proposita." In 1799 appeared his greatest work, "The Voyage of

Nearchus to the Euphrates, collected from the original journal, preserved by Arrian, and illustrated by authorities ancient and modern, containing an account of the first navigation attempted by Europeans in the Indian Ocean, &c." 4to.

In this truly erudite performance, which has been translated into French, the Doctor has displayed an uncommon knowledge of ancient and modern geography, as he also has in his next work, entitled, "The Periplus of the Erythean Sea, part I. containing an account of the navigation of the ancients, from the Red Sea to the coast of Zanquebar, with dissertations," 4to. 1800.

In the present year he has published "A Defence of Public Education, in a Letter to the Lord Bishop of Meath, 8vo." The occasion of this tract, which has excited no small notice and animadversion, was this: Dr. Rennel, Master of the Temple, in a sermon preached before the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, at the annual meeting of the charity schools in St. Paul's, 1799, remarked, in rather sharp terms, on the prevailing neglect of religion in our public seminaries of education. At this Dr. Vincent took fire; and, indeed, not without some reason, standing, as he then did, at the very head of the numerous and respectable body who were thus assailed by a preacher of Dr. Rennel's high character.

A private correspondence between these two learned divines ensued; and Dr. Rennell, having made concessions and explanations which Dr. Vincent considered as satisfactory, all further observations

were

were suspended. But this pacification proved of short continuance, for the Bishop of Meath having delivered a sermon on the same occasion, and in the same pulpit, in 1800, and which was printed at the request of the Society, thought proper to subjoin a *note*, in which he repeats Dr. Rennell's accusation, with some severe additions of his own against public schools.

This was enough to rouse any man; and that Dr. Vincent felt himself hurt at the repetition of such charges is not to be wondered at. He applied to the Society for leave to insert in their parcels, a justificatory paper, by way of repelling the evil impression which the Bishop's note might make upon the minds of its readers. This request the Society did not think proper to grant, as not chusing to take any part in the controversy. The doctor, then, as his last resource, appealed to the public in one of the most masterly apologies that ever appeared in print. It is true he speaks in a high tone, and, perhaps, in some respects he is too keen upon the Bishop and Dr. Rennell. But it must be admitted, that the former went greatly out of his way, and that in an unfair manner, to meddle with a point on which he had little information; and the latter, with a strange degree of inconsistency, censured the very seminaries for that which, on another occasion, he had defended them, namely, what he calls "a pagan education."*

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* This is a curious circumstance; and as it was not mentioned by Dr. Vincent in his admirable tract, we shall here adduce it. Dr. Rennell, in a note to his sermon before the Society, in 1799, expressed

Neither of these excellent divines, however, have made any sort of reply to Dr. Vincent, though certainly something might have been expected from them, either to confirm their assertions, or in the

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expressed himself thus: "There is scarcely any internal danger which we fear, but what is to be ascribed to a *Pagan education*, under Christian establishments in a Christian country.." Now the same Dr. Rennell, in a note to another sermon, preached before the University of Cambridge commencement Sunday, 1798, says, "Under these principles I know of no subject so pregnant in *important consequences*, as a consideration of the extremes of weakness and strength exhibited by the ancient Greek philosophers. These circumstances, if duly weighed, will point out to the wisdom of this University, the *extreme importance* of combining the study of the ancient Greek philosophy with our theological researches. The foundations of the evidences of revelation will be greatly strengthened, *by observing, with accuracy, the light the Pagans actually obtained*, and in discovering the insurmountable boundary which interrupted their further progress. *I have ever considered the works of Plato, Aristotle, and the moral writings of Cicero and Plutarch, as an avenue and portico to Christianity.* I am convinced, from some experience, that minds embued with the precepts of these men, *strengthened with their wisdom*, and elevated with their dignity, will be strongly predisposed, both from a review of their excellencies and defects, to close in with the evidences of that gospel, which brought life and immortality to light. *The minds of our young men so formed*, would be inaccessible to the silly and ignorant sophisms of Voltaire, Rousseau, Condorcet, d'Alembert, and Volney."

How these two passages can be fairly reconciled, must be left to the casuistical genius of the author of them. Plain readers will be apt to think, that the latter is a full and decisive refutation of the former, and that it constitutes an elaborate defence of PAGAN EDUCATION!

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way of retractation. Other writers, however, have entered into the dispute, and that with a forwardness which indicates more zeal than judgment. It might have been expected that some other heads of schools would have entered their caveat also against the charges brought against them, but it seems that they rested satisfied with what has been so ably urged by Dr. Vincent in his *Defence of Public Education.*

Since the agitation of this question, the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge have properly passed a resolution, that, for the future, nothing shall be appended to any sermon preached before them but what has previously met with their sanction. This measure, however, was not carried without violent opposition.

On the day appointed for a general thanksgiving on account of the peace, Dr. Vincent preached a most eloquent and energetic discourse before the House of Commons, at St. Margaret's, which discourse is since published.

As a pulpit orator, the Doctor is distinguished by great animation, a clear and sonorous articulation, and a graceful dignity of manner. His sermons are the compositions of a mind richly embued with divine and human learning, elegant in their language, yet sufficiently levelled to the plainest understandings. W.

THE EARL OF MACARTNEY.

GEORGE Earl of Macartney, the representative of an ancient branch of a family once possessed of independent princely power in Ireland, has been ennobled in reward for eminent political services to his sovereign and his country, and has passed with honour through a greater variety of high diplomatic and vice-regal employments, than have been confided to almost any contemporary statesman of this or any neighbouring nation.

The great Iriſh family of Macarthy More was one of the moſt zealous to resist, in early times, the invasions and conqueſts of the Engliſh. As the inhabitants of the north-weſt parts of Scotland and those of the north of Ireland were originally one people, whose primitive connexions were preserved by frequency of intercourse, affinity, and alliance; it was natural for them to co-operate againſt the Engliſh, their common enemies, at the time when these strove to add Scotland as well as Ireland to the dominions of the Engliſh crown. Robert Bruce found occasional refuge in Ireland at those times when there remained scarcely a spot of Scottiſh ground where he might elude the vigilance of the Engliſh, or withstand their power. And the Bruces, after Scotland was, by their persevering and intrepid valour, ultimately freed from Engliſh oppreſſion, readily went, at the invitation of the native Iriſh, on an expedition to drive the Engliſh also out of that iſle, which was, as yet,

but half subdued. Scotsmen and Irishmen fought together, in these circumstances, under the banners of the Bruces. Some of the brave Maccarthys were among the most faithful companions of the atchievements and misfortunes of Edward Bruce in Ireland. A branch of the Maccarthys, assuming the more correct appellation of Macarthurs, was already established in Argyleshire, where it still continues to flourish. And Edward Bruce gave lands in Galloway, of which he was lord, to another brave man of the same great Irish family and name.

That sirname which among the Irish and the Highland Scots speaking the Celtic language, was Maccarthy or Macarthur, became, among the inhabitants of Lower Galloway speaking the Anglo-Saxon, Macartane or Macartney. The lands granted to Edward Bruce's followers took the name of their proprietor, which they still retain. The family was, in the process of the three following centuries, diffused, in several respectable branches, through both the stewartry of Kirkcudbright and the shire of Wigton. By the vicinity of Galloway, the most western district of Scotland, to Ireland, there have been alternately, many settlements of families from Galloway in Ireland, and of families from the north-east parts of Ireland in Galloway. At that time, particularly when James the sixth strove to establish episcopacy in Scotland; at the æra when Ireland was reconquered and filled with new colonists by the Cromwells; and at the great period, also, of the Revolution; many persons, emigrants from Galloway, became the

founders of families now respectable in Ireland. It was in the year 1649 that George Macartney of Auchinleck, at the age of three and twenty, went over as a military officer from Galloway to Ireland, where his services were gradually rewarded with estates in the county of Antrim, on which he was induced to settle permanently.

Of that George, the present Earl of Macartney is the great grandson, and only surviving male representative. He is, also, the head of the Macartneys of Galloway, in which county he still retains Auchinleck, the ancient inheritance of his family.

He was born in the year 1737, was educated as a fellow-commoner in Trinity College, Dublin, and at that University, he proceeded Master of Arts, in the year 1759.

When he had finished his education, a young king was upon the throne, at whose court, it was natural, that a young man of ancient family, and with a mind conscious of high talents, should aspire to be favourably introduced. He had that manly elegance of personal form and manners which is ever useful to procure, at a court, the notice without which genius might remain unknown, and by consequence be incapable to make its way to trust and honour. At court, therefore, it was soon perceived that he had abilities which it would be unwise and unjust to deny to the public service. The importance of the relations commercial and political, between Great Britain and the empire of Russia, the neceffity there was to counteract the influence of France at the Russian

court,

court, and the late commencement of a female reign, of which the character and policy were to be particularly studied, made the embassy from this country to Russia, to be, just at that time, one of those diplomatic situations in which penetration, vigilance, discretion, and agreeable address were the most indispensibly requisite. The fit qualifications were thought by some of the most discerning judges of character, such as Lord Holland, to be united in Mr. Macartney.

On the 22d of August 1764, he was, therefore, appointed envoy-extraordinary to the court of Russia.

The Empress Catherine, fond to an uncommon degree of French literature and French manners, inviting the visits of the wits and philosophers of Paris, feeding them with flattery, ambitious to win their praise, and wishing even to have persuaded D'Alembert to undertake the education of her son, the late emperor Paul, was thus unavoidably subject to an influence which, however indirect and imperceptible in its operation, could not but have a certain tendency to make her favour the political interests of France rather than those of Great Britain. Yet the British envoy was well received at her court. The chief ostensible diplomatic business of his mission, was, to negotiate a commercial treaty for the benefit of the British merchants trading to Russia. Of the proper interests of our Russia trade he was well informed: his address surmounted every difficulty of access to the empress and her ministers: he knew to seize, in

business,

business, the *mollissima tempora fandi*: and he had coolness and patience to conquer every obstacle which might be opposed to his views by the rough passions or stickling artifices of others. Within no long time after opening this negociation, he procured the Russian court to agree to a treaty perfectly satisfactory to the wishes of the British merchants at St. Petersburgh, and suitable to the inftructions which he had received from the Government at home. It is not necessary here to specify more than a single article of it, in order to shew how exceedingly advantageous the tenor of the whole must have been to this country. Its fourth article, by a provision that on goods exported from the ports of Russia, British merchants should pay only the same duties with the native subjects of the Russian government, tended actually to put the whole export trade of that country into our hands; because, to our other advantages, this stipulation alone was wanting to enable us to prevail in the Russian markets, and to monopolize the carrying trade of Russia beyond all competition. A grateful address from the merchants of the British factory at St. Petersburgh; the honour of the knighthood of the Polish order of the White Eagle conferred by a monarch who was himself at once a man of fashion, taste, and pleasure, and a man of of political talents; and the elevation to the character of ambassador-extraordinary and plenipotentiary from the British court, in which he finally concluded the treaty of commerce; were some of the teftimonies of approbation and respect which Sir George Macartney

merited

merited by his conduct in this diplomatic mission to the North.

Thus successful and distinguished, he returned to the British court. Other rewards there awaited him, which the hand of love was to bestow; and, on the 1st of February 1768, he became the husband of Lady Jane Stuart, second daughter of John Earl of Bute.

By his marriage, he had contracted a relation of affinity to the late Lord Lonsdale, then Sir James Lowther. And by that gentleman's intereſt with the electors, he was, in April 1768, chosen one of the representatives of the borough of Cockermouth in the Parliament of Great Britain.

His estates were chiefly in Ireland, and, in July 1768, he was chosen to represent the borough of Armagh in the Irish parliament.

On the 1st of January 1769, Sir George Macartney was nominated principal secretary to the present Marquis of Townshend, in the high office which he then filled, of lord lieutenant of Ireland. By the accustomed system of the Irish administration, the duties of the principal secretary involve the functions of prime minister under the lord lieutenant. To communicate between the Government and the House of Commons; to prepare, to write, or, at the least, to sign all the public acts and the formally official dispatches of the lieutenant; to assist in opening the public dispatches which the lord lieutenant may receive; to act as his secretary at the council-board; to contrive expedients for the government of Ireland

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at the time, such as may be presented for the approbation of the cabinet-council in England, and to find means for carrying easily into effect the measures of Government which have been in England finally determined upon; to be the first orator of the Government in the House of Commons; and to have what has been emphatically called the *management* of that house; were, before the late union, the tasks understood to belong peculiarly to this great and difficult employment. In the discharge of these, Sir George Macartney's conduct was so agreeable to his sovereign, that he was nominated, in the month of June 1772, to be one of the knights companions of the order of the Bath, and he was installed at Westminster, by proxy, on the 15th day of that month.

In the month of October, 1774 he was elected to represent the Scottish boroughs of Ayr, Irwin, Rothsay, Campbelton, and Inverary, in the ensuing parliament of Great Britain. Three of these boroughs were situated near in contiguity to the estates of the Earl of Bute, in the west of Scotland; who could, hence, have little difficulty to recommend a son-in-law of such distinguished merit to the choice of the electors.

The conduct of Sir George Macartney in parliament was satisfactory alike to his constituents and to his sovereign. But, the services of his talents and early experience were soon wanted by the Government in a distant employment of vice-regal authority. In December 1775 he was appointed captain-general and governor in chief of Grenada, the Grenadine islands, and Tobago.

The trade of those islands; their general police; the business of procuring adequate supplies of revenue from the insular legislatures; the command of the troops always requisite both for their defence and for the due support of the authority of the government; the care of the exterior relations of the islands; the proper correspondence with the supreme administration at home; and the necessity there is that the king should be represented especially in the more distant parts of the empire by vicegerents whose personal appearance, manners, and conduct should not disgrace the Government in the eyes of its subjects; render the office of governor of such places, at all times, one in which accomplished abilities may find adequate scope for their best exercise. At the time when Sir G. Macartney was appointed to this employment, the rising contest with the American colonists, the jealousies and ambitious views of France and Spain, the situation of those islands so immediately on the very scene where so many great transactions were about to take place, presented difficulties more numerous and more arduous than almost any former governor could have had to encounter. Yet, for more than three years, he administered this government in a manner equally useful to the interests of his sovereign, and acceptable to the people of the islands. In 1779 Grenada was invaded by a French armament much more powerful than any force that the governor had ready for its defence. But he formed a skilful plan of operation against the invaders; he was well seconded by the troops, and by the inhabitants; he

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made a resistance of which the judgment and gallantry astonished the brave officers against whom he had to contend: nor was Grenada surrendered to the French till the defenders were reduced to a situation in which nothing could have justified the waste of lives in a further continuance of hostilities. The inhabitants, at a time when, having passed under the power of the conquerors they could be in no necessity to disguise any sentiments of dislike, if such they had entertained against their late governor, honoured him with an address in which they acknowledged, in the language of the warmest gratitude, the wisdom and justice with which he had presided over them, the vigilance and ability with which he had constantly endeavoured to provide for their security and welfare, the skill with which he had regulated the defence of the isle, and the coolness and intrepidity with which he met, in person, the dangers of the several attacks.

He returned to Europe, a prisoner; but was soon released. He had been raised, in 1776, to the dignity of Lord Macartney of the kingdom of Ireland, Baron of Lissanoure in the county of Antrim. As the loss of Grenada, however unfortunate to his country, had not arisen from misconduct in him, but was rather signalized by the most illustrious display of all his great qualities; he met with no ungracious reception from his sovereign and his country. In the month of September 1780, he was chosen to represent the borough of Beeralstone in the British Parliament. In the December immediately following, he was appointed

pointed governor and resident of Fort St. George at Madras, in the East Indies, and he went without delay to discharge the functions of his appointment.

In Grenada, he had found Mr. Staunton, like himself, a native of the North of Ireland, and who, after practising medicine for some years, had become proprietor of an estate in that island. Mr. Staunton, upon the governor's invitation, willingly became his secretary. A friendship grew up between them, while they acted officially in these mutual relations, which was not to end with the cessation of their engagements in Grenada. Lord Macartney invited his friend to accompany him to the East in the same capacity in which he had found his services in the West Indies, at once so agreeable and so useful.

Lord Macartney arrived in India at a period when there was peculiar difficulty in the administration of the government of that district of country, over which he was sent to preside. The company's inferior servants had learned to usurp a power of slighting the commands of their masters: and Tippoo Saib, then in the vigour of his strength as sovereign of Mysore, was harassing the subjects and allies of the company with a dangerous war. While General Stuart was preparing to send the governor from the seat of his authority to confinement in a dungeon; Lord Macartney, anticipating his purpose, ordered his friend and secretary, Mr. Staunton, to put the General under arrest. With a small party of sepoys, and with singular intrepidity and discretion, Mr. Staunton executed that bold order. From this

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time, the Governor's authority prevailed without opposition. Commiſſioners, of whom Mr. Staunton was one, were sent to treat for peace with the sovereign of Mysore. A peace seasonably useful to the company's affairs, and not betraying its honour, was, under Lord Macartney's auspices, happily negotiated. None of its benefits were more grateful to his country or to his own heart, than that it restored to liberty a number of officers who had, in the course of the war in Bangalore, been made prisoners by the armies of Hyder Alli and Tippoo Saib, and who had been long detained in a captivity of which the circumstances were peculiarly wretched. On the 4th of June 1784, the captives whom he had delivered, preſented the following address to his Lordship:

"My Lord,

"As the obligations you have conferred on us have inspired sentiments too warm to be extinguished or suppressed, we must request your Lordship's permission and acceptance of this general acknowledgment of them. While we endeavour to do justice to our feelings, we hope not to trespass on delicacy, or the forms usually attended to of your lordship's high character and station, though on such a subject we are free to say that the formality of common rules would ill apply to the grateful effusions of the heart.

"Ours, my Lord, is not a common acknowledgment for the favours or kindnesses of ordinary life. The miseries of long captivity, aggravated by barbarian cruelty and insolence, and the horrors of famine; these were the sufferings which your beneficent hand alleviated, which your unremitting attention enabled, and alone enabled us to support; and which your successful wisdom has finally removed. If any motive can add force to our duty, or impel us with additional zeal to the public service, it will be the most lively and most grateful recollection

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of the attention with which we have been honoured, by which we have been saved; of the generous care of Government, which though immersed in the complicated and actual difficulties of the state, forgot not the suffering soldier.

"As men restored to life, as members of society restored to our friends and our country, as soldiers restored to our profession and to honour, permit us, my Lord, with the sincerest and most lively gratitude, and the most respectful consideration, to assure you, that we shall ever retain the deepest sense of the essential protection you afforded us.

"And that we are your Lordship's

"Most obliged and devoted humble servants,

(Signed) "THOMAS LEAF, and 28 others."

In carrying into effect the orders from the Court of Directors; in transmitting home intelligence the fullest and most exact that could be desired to enlighten their deliberations; in provisionally regulating, with due energy, vigilance, and wisdom, every thing in regard to which it was impossible to await instructions from England; in acting, in intercourse with the other powers of India, in a manner the best adapted equally to maintain the dignity of the company, and to preserve their power and the extension of their territories from appearing in an invidious light; in presiding with due authority in the council, and in commanding the respect and good-will of the soldiery; his lordship honourably accomplished the best hopes of those, whom he represented in the high employment.

In the ſpace of four years, he had ſo fully evinced his services to be, in the highest degree, useful, to the company's affairs, that, in February 1785 he was appointed to the high and almost imperial office of

governor general of Bengal. This appointment however he chose to decline.

In January 1786, he arrived in England. And the accounts of his services were so satisfactory to the East India Company, and to all who had in this country, any interest in East India affairs or any controul over them, that he was again requested to return to administer the chief authority in India. He however again declined to accept of this office. Of the additions to his fortune from the emoluments and advantages of his official situation at Madras, he gave an account upon oath, by which it appeared, that even Cicero returned not from Cilicia with purer hands. He had acquired nothing but what fairly arose out of his salary and from allowances authorized by the Court of Directors. An example of such abstinence in a place of great trust and high command, was not defrauded of its due praise. It was consigned to remembrance in the records of the transactions of the Court of Directors. And, a pension of 1500l. sterling a year was bestowed to reward equally the important services which this illustrious nobleman had rendered to the company, and his great pecuniary moderation*. A pension of 500l. a year

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* At a Court of Directors, held on Wednesday the 12th of April, 1786,

"Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Court, that the Right Hon. George, Lord Macartney, whilst he was governor of Madras, upon all occasions manifested the greatest zeal in support of the interest of this company, and that he faithfully discharged his duty as such, more especially by adhering strictly to his covenants and engagements with the company, in declin-

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was, likewise, granted, to reward the services of his friend and secretary, the late Sir George Staunton.

During the six years immediately following after his return from Madrass, he remained at home, in the discharge of his duties as a legislator, enjoying the society of his friends, and setting an example not less amiable in private life, than that which he exhibited in public employments had been prudent, active, and magnanimous. In 1788, he took his seat, for the first time in the Irish House of Peers. His regard for the prosperity of Ireland induced him to undertake the duties of one of the trustees of the linen-manufacture for the province of Ulster. He accepted, also, the honourable appointment of *Custos*

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ing to accept any presents from the country powers, or from any person whatever in India: that the example set by his Lordship, in giving in upon oath a state of his property gained in the company's service, was highly meritorious, in as much such conduct was afterwards sanctioned by an act of the legislature; and by which statement it appears that his Lordship's fortune had been very moderately increased during his residence in India, and that the same arose solely from the savings he made from his salary and allowances authorized by this court.

" Resolved, That it is incumbent upon this court to shew their fullest approbation of such upright and disinterested conduct, in the hope that so laudable an example will be followed by their servants in India; and moreover that it is fitting that some compensation should be made to his Lordship, and that it will be a proper reward for his distinguished services and strict integrity, to grant his Lordship an annuity of fifteen hundred pounds, during the term of his natural life.

" Signed by order of the said Court,

EAST INDIA HOUSE, T. MORTON, Secretary."
the 13th of April, 1786.

Rotulorum for the County of Antrim. And he was, likewise, promoted, in Ireland, to the command of a regiment of militia-dragoons.

The only civilized country in the world, from which Europeans have been hitherto rigorously and successfully excluded, is the great empire of China. The Jesuits had almost added it to the ecclesiastical empire of Rome; when, by their contentions with a less artful order of the catholic priesthood, that influence which they acquired was gradually lost; and the Chinese awakening from the dream of conversion, holiness, and salvation, learned to regard those fathers as cunning and dangerous impostors. The Portuguese, in reward for a great service, obtained a settlement at an extremity of the Chinese dominions. The missionaries by dishonourable compliances, and sometimes by dissembling their religion, gained permission still to skulk in small number, in some of the great interior towns. But, while Hindostan was to fall under the yoke of European conquerors, while so many of the isles adjacent to the Chinese coasts were to become the marts of European traffic; China alone was by a vigilant, intolerant, and exclusive policy, to elude for centuries, the intrusion of the manners, power, and arts of Europe. Its wealth has, however, long iuvited the visits of our traffic: and to procure its manufactures and natural products, while few of ours could be, in return, acceptable to the Chinese, we have been content to drain the western world of its gold and silver. Had we obtained no imperial settlements in the east; had

had we still known Hindostan only by trading to its coasts; we might perhaps have been satisfied without aspiring to any more intimate political relations to the Chinese. Our establishment in India, in dominions almost touching on the interior confines of China, has produced a necessity, that we ſhould attempt to cultivate their amity, if we would not rashly press into contention with them as foes and rivals. And, as Asiatic merchants striving to engross the whole country trade of the east, we have an interest to increase our commercial relations to China, which would be much less urgent if our trade were only to to sell the manufactures and supply the wants of Europe.

For such causes, it had for many years appeared exceedingly desirable to open a regular diplomatic correspondence between the British and the Chinese governments. Various obstacles had prevented any direct attempt from being hitherto made. Not the smallest of these, consisted in the difficulty of finding an ambassador of fit prudence, personal dignity and graciousness, knowledge of the oriental languages and manners, firmness and insinuation, skill to accommodate his conduct to the prepossessions of strangers, and patriotic spirit of enterprise to do justice to the discharge of so high a trust. A man was wanted who should give the best possible representation of the grandeur, of the equity, of the beneficence of the British character; a man, whose conduct should be so engaging, as to overcome all the wonted prejudices of the Chinese against strangers

and Europeans. Common talents may suffice for the ordinary continuance of a diplomatic connection: but, a great man only should be employed to open it for the first time.

In the beginning of the year 1792, events occurred which renewed the solicitude of the East-India Company and the British government, to send an ambassador to the court of China. The choice was easily fixed; for, the design of the embassy was no sooner proposed, than the voice of general opinion marked out Lord Macartney, as almost the only man to whom this charge might be entrusted with any strong probability of its success. On the 3d of May 1792, therefore, he was nominated ambassador from the King of Great Britain to the Emperor of China. He was admitted, that same day, to the honours and trust of a Privy Counsellor. On the 28th of the same month, he was farther graced by his Sovereign by a patent advancing him to the dignity of Viscount Dervock, in the county of Antrim in Ireland. He proceeded, without delay, on his embassy. Sir George Staunton, his friend and former secretary, was again in this embassy, his secretary and companion. A suitable train of servants and followers were appointed to attend him. A ship of war, under the the command of Sir Erasmus Gower, was, with certain smaller vessels, assigned for his voyage. Many rich presents were sent by the ambassador from the British to the Chinese sovereign. He arrived in safety in the Indian seas. When his approach was notified at the Chinese court, the Emperor and his

minister

minister agreed, though not without hesitation, to receive the ambassadors and presents of a monarch so great and so remote. To approach Pekin the northern capital of the Chinese empire, his Lordship was obliged happily to direct his voyage round the south-east coast of China, by a tract hitherto almost unknown to European navigation. The advantage even alone of exploring that track might have been enough to compensate for all the difficulties and expence of the embassy. He entered the Chinese territories. Mandarines of the highest rank were appointed to conduct him to the imperial court. His presents were graciously accepted. He was entertained, with his secretary and all his train, in a manner the most hospitable and sumptuous which the state of the Chinese court would easily permit. With great address Lord Macarteney contrived at once to comply, in his obeisance with the wishes of the Chinese sovereign, and to assert the dignity of his royal master by procuring that Chinese nobleman of the same rank with himself should, *in the same representative character*, perform before a portrait of the British monarch, those ceremonies of respect, which Lord Macartney himself paid to the living presence of the Emperor of China. His own conduct and that of his attendants were at the same time regulated, so as not to give offence to the prejudices of the Chinese. Permission for the permanent residence of a British ambassador at the court of China could not, indeed, as yet be obtained. A commercial treaty would have constituted a new connexion with a foreign power of

which Chinese prejudices could not yet favourably conceive the nature. But, in every other respect, the best purposes of the embassy were happily accomplished. The ambassador, with his train, returned over land. On the 19th of December 1793, he made his entrance into Canton. After being there splendidly entertained by the viceroy of that government, he proceeded to Macao. From that port he sailed on his return to Europe, on the 17th of March 1794. On the 5th of September, after an absence of nearly two years, he arrived at Portsmouth in safety. While he was on his return, his sovereign had graciously testified his approbation of his services, by exalting him to the dignity of Earl of Macarteny. Their importance has been since more and more proved by new facilities opening to the British trade in China, and new respect to the rights and persons of Britons wherever they have access to the Chinese territories. The Earl of Macartney was on the 8th of June 1796, farther advanced to the dignity of a British Peer, by the title of Baron Macartney of Parkhurst, in Sussex.

He has since crowned his public services by the administration of the viceroyalty at the Cape of Good Hope. In this high station, as in the other offices which he has filled, the Earl of Macartney has displayed qualities which do infinite honour to his head as a statesman, and to his feelings as a man.

THE

THE EARL OF HARRINGTON.

AMONG the many distinguished military characters which have graced the present reign, it would be difficult to select one, who, during a period of nearly thirty years, has evinced more zeal for the honour of the service, and of his country, than the Earl of Harrington.

This nobleman was born March 20, 1753. In 1770, he obtained an ensigncy in the foot guards, and in 1774, he was advanced to the command of the light company of the 29th regiment of foot.

In the beginning of 1776, Lord Harrington, then Viscount Petersham, exchanged his light company for the grenadier company of the 29th. In February that year, this regiment embarked at Chatham, for Quebec, on board the Isis, Surprize, and Martin ships of war, and four transports, under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Patrick Gordon. The three men of war, commanded by Commodore Douglas, arrived on the 6th of May in the bason of Quebec, which city was at that time besieged by the Americans, under the command of General Montgomery. The troops on board, consisting of Lord Petersham's grenadiers, part of two battalion companies, and the marines, effected a landing. The remainder of the 29th arrived a few days after, and did duty in Quebec, till the arrival of the army from Europe, under the command of Major-general Burgoyne, when the whole was ordered up the river St. Lawrence, in pursuit of the Americans.

On the 8th June, the Americans attempted to cut off the troops in the town of Trois Rivieres, which they thought was occupied by a small body of men, but they met with a warm reception, and retreated into the woods.

The 24th regiment, ten companies of grenadiers, and the same number of light-infantry, were formed into an advanced brigade, under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Fraser, of the 24th foot, appointed brigadier-general. This brigade landed at Sorel, and pursued the Americans up the river Richelieu, to Chamblée and Fort St. John, at which place the latter embarked in batteaux, for l'Isle aux Noix. The advanced brigade encamped at Fort St. John, until vessels could be procured to follow the Americans.

As soon as the armament was completed, part of the 29th battalion companies embarked on board the ships of war as marines, and on the 11th and 13th of October, actions took place between the British fleet, under Commodore Crew, Admiral Pringle, and the Americans, commanded by General Arnold, in all of which the British were victorious. The advanced, and first brigades, with the artillery and remainder of the 29th, were in batteaux, and soon joined the fleet at Crown Point, where the 29th detachment had landed, and taken post in the ruins of Fort Frederick. The army immediately encamped, but the weather setting in very cold and stormy, Sir Guy Carleton thought proper to defer the attack of Ticonderago till the following spring. The army re-embarked,

re-embarked, and sailed the 2d November, the fleet bringing up the rear.

On arriving in Canada, the army was ordered into winter-quarters. The advanced brigade was cantoned on both banks of the river St. Lawrence, from Montreal, downwards. Lord Petersham's company was quartered at Verchere. The 29th battalion garrisoned Montreal, to which place his lordship often went to see his friends.

In the spring of 1777, Lieutenant-general Burgoyne was appointed to command a detachment of Sir Guy Carlton's army, destined to cross Lake Champlain, for the attack of Ticonderago, and to effect a junction with the southern army. This army, after encountering the greatest difficulties, and disputing every inch of ground with the Americans, infinitely superior in number, was obliged to throw down their arms by the convention of Saratoga.

During this active campaign, Lord Petersham acted as an aid-de-camp to General Burgoyne, and his services in that arduous capacity were particularly noticed by that unfortunate general. Indeed, his lordship was on the most intimate footing with all the general and other officers, particularly Brigadier-general Fraser, who often declared that Lord Petersham would be one of the first officers in the British army.

After the disastrous issue of the campaign, Lord Petersham was sent to England with General Burgoyne's dispatches, by the way of New York, and

no person in the army could have been chosen more proper to give his Majesty every information on the subject, than his lordship. Shortly after his lordship's arrival in London, he purchased a company in the foot-guards.

In 1779, Lord Petersham succeeded to the title of Earl of Harrington, in consequence of the death of his father; and shortly after that event he married Miss Fleming, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Michael Fleming, Bart. a lady of large fortune, and most amiable manners, who has long ranked high in the esteem and favour of the Queen.

The intentions of the French to attack our West-India possessions, being very evident, letters of service were issued, about this time, to raise a number of new regiments, one of which was given to his lordship, who soon completed it as the 85th, and shortly after embarked with it as lieutenant-colonel commandant, for Jamaica. Major-general Sir Archibald Campbell was at that time governor of the island, and assisted by his lordship, he modelled his little army in a masterly manner. In the arrangement, his lordship was made a brigadier-general, with the command of the flank companies of all the regiments.

The great mortality which prevails, more or less, in the West-Indies, particularly in the time of war, soon reduced the gallant corps sent from England, to a small number. The 85th regiment, one of the finest ever landed on any of our tropical islands, suffered severely; and his Lordship's health, from

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his great military exertions, being injured, he returned to England, accompanied by Lady Harrington, who insisted on sharing the fortunes of her husband, amidst the dangers of the sea, the perils of war, and the unhealthiness of the West-Indies.

On Lord Harrington's return to England, he met with a most gracious reception from his Majesty, (whose discernment in military matters, and attention to discerning officers, form conspicuous traits in his character), who was pleased to nominate him one of his aids-de-camp, which gave him the rank of colonel in the army.

Lieutenant-general Calcraft, of the 65th foot, dying shortly after the arrival of Lord Harrington, that regiment was presented to his lordship, which he immediately joined; and on its being ordered to Ireland, he embarked with it, his amiable consort still accompanying him. While on Dublin duty he had the command of that garrison. and possessed the confidence of the Duke of Rutland, then lord-lieutenant, in an eminent degree.

It was during this time that Lieutenant-general David Dundas, then adjutant-general of the Irish army, wished to bring forward the system of tactics which is now adopted in our service. Lord Harrington, whose knowledge of the military art was inferior to none of his standing, approved highly of it, and immediately, with the Duke of Rutland's approbation, tried it with the 65th; the progress that well-disciplined corps made in these tactics, and the evident utility to be derived therefrom in execution,

steadiness,

steadiness, celerity, and order, was fully exemplified at the time, which induced other regiments to follow its example, and in a short time it became general in both kingdoms. In June 1792, this system was, by his Majesty's orders, directed to be implicitly followed by every regiment in the service.

In 1785, his Lordship's regiment being ordered to America, he obtained his Majesty's permission to return to England, and for the first time since his entrance upon a military career, enjoyed the tranquillity of leisure, and the sweets of a domestic life. He passed a few months of the winter in London, but chiefly spent his time at his seat in Derbyshire, where he was enabled to pursue the study of his profession, assisted by one of the most valuable libraries of military authors in this kingdom.

During his Lordship's retirement in Derbyshire, a circumstance took place highly flattering to his character. On the death of Lieutenant-general Evelyn, colonel of the twenty-ninth regiment, the Earl of Harrington had expressed a particular wish to succeed to the colonelcy of that regiment. It was, however, previously disposed of to Lieutenant General Tryon. In January, 1788, the death of this officer occasioning a second vacancy, an express was immediately sent by the Secretary at War to Lord Harrington, at his seat in Derbyshire, notifying, that his Majesty, bearing in recollection the former wish of his Lordship, had appointed him to the regiment.

A few weeks after his appointment, his Lordship

went down to Worcester to see his regiment, which had returned from America in the November preceeding. The joyful reception he experienced from his old friends on that occasion was equally pleasing and honourable to him.

During the period of Lord Harrington's command of this regiment, the nation was happily in a state of peace. Many opportunities, however, occurred, in which the talents and exertions of his Lordship were conspicuously displayed. His regiment was honoured by the peculiar commendation of his Majesty, for their steady discipline and regular conduct at Cheltenham and at Windsor, at which places it was stationed during the royal residence. At the latter, the regiment was continued in garrison for three years, a circumstance which particularly distinguishes it, as no regiment had ever remained so long on that duty.

In December, 1792, his Majesty was pleased to confer an additional mark of his regard upon Lord Harrington, by appointing him colonel of the first regiment of life-guards, with the gold stick. As an infantry officer, the army in general knew his lordship's splendid talents; but as he was now called to a new mode of service, which he probably only was acquainted with from theory, his intimate friends were in some measure apprehensive for the honour of his reputation; but their fears were groundless, as his subsequent conduct has evinced.

At the promotion of general officers in 1793, his lordship was made a Major-general. During the active

active campaigns on the continent, his lordship applied to his Majesty, that he might be sent with his regiment to serve under his Royal Highness the Duke of York; but his appointment of gold stick rendered this wish nugatory. His Majesty, however, being desirous of becoming acquainted with certain matters on the continent, and the operations of the army, particularly the British, sent Lord Harrington on a private mission to the Duke of York, with whom he remained for a short time.

His lordship has since been made Lieutenant-general, and is now second in command on the London staff, his Royal Highness Field-marshal the Duke of Gloucester being first, and has also been made a privy counsellor.

Lord Harrington is a particular favourite of all the royal family; and, with his lady, constantly of all the private parties at the Queen's house. The Duke of York has a very great friendship for him, and, it is confidently said, pays much attention to his opinion in military matters. Indeed, with respect to dress, appointments, and the inferior œconomy of a regiment, his lordship stands unrivalled. The present sword of the army was first introduced by Lord Harrington, adopted by his Royal Highness in the Coldstream guards, and since by his Majesty's orders in all regiments.

In private life, Lord and Lady Harrington are a most honourable instance of domestic happiness. They are blessed with a numerous family, and are examples of conjugal and parental virtue.

ARCHDEACON PALEY.

THE celebrated subject of this memoir was born at Peterborough, in 1743. His father had at that time the small living of Helpestone, near Peterborough, which he held till his death. About 1746 he obtained the valuable school at Giggleswick, in Yorkshire, to which place he removed with his family. It has been by many ignorantly supposed that Giggleswick had the honour of giving birth to Dr. Paley.

In his father's school Dr. Paley remained till 1759, when he became a student of Christ's College, Cambridge. It has been said that in the outset of his academical career his application was neither regular nor intense. To a young man of sixteen, juſt absolved from the severe restraints of a private school, and new to the charms of dissipation, the college life offers temptations which are not easily resisted. Whatever influence they might have acquired over Dr. Paley's mind, he was soon able to deliver himself from it. The latter part of his under-graduateship was devoted unintermittedly to the university studies. He rose at five o'clock, and saw no company during the day. At nine every evening he supped alone at an inn in the Petty-cury, a street adjoining to his college, and returned to his rooms at ten. Such induſtry will always lead to the object at which he aimed. He was senior wrangler of the year 1763.

Notwithstanding this ardour of exertion, there is reason to believe that Dr. Paley entertained little af-

fection for the mathematics and natural philosophy, which were in his time the sole, and are now the principal subjects of the Senate-house examination. A natural inclination for the study would have been inflamed by the distinction it had procured him; and it is certain, that after he had obtained his bachelor's degree, he never seriously pursued it. Genius must conspire with long-continued and indefatigable industry to form a distinguished master in the mathematical sciences; but every mind may meet in them with admirable exercises of its powers. In this light Dr. Paley seems to have viewed them; and at the end of three years he might justly conclude, that there ought to be a period to mere preparation, and that the vigour which it had bestowed should be applied to an object.

The second wrangler of his year was Mr. Frere, the present member for Norwich. The immediate possession of a handsome estate was promised to him by a relation, if he should be declared the senior wrangler. The promise was undoubtedly made to encourage the exertions of Mr. Frere; and it is therefore reasonable to suppose that it was executed.

Dr. Paley was assisted in his studies by the late Judge Wilson, who was at that time a private tutor of very great celebrity. In the intercourse brought on by this engagement, the tutor and pupil imbibed a mutual esteem, and the foundation was laid of a lasting and intimate friendship between them. Judge Wilson was born in an obscure part of Westmoreland. In 1757 he was admitted a student of Peter-House,

Cambridge.

Cambridge. In 1760, while not a bachelor of arts, he was elevated into considerable notice by the part he took in a dispute which greatly agitated the university. On a vacancy in the Lucasian* Professorship, Dr. Waring offered himself a candidate, and published a work to prove the justice of his pretensions. The celebrated Dr. Powell, at that time fellow of St. John's College, who supported another candidate, immediately published a very severe criticism on the work. He was answered by Wilson, and afterwards by Waring himself. This produced a rejoinder from Powell, and the rejoinder was met by a reply from Waring, now established in the professorship. The controversy interests the present age only, from the names of the controversialists. Powell's criticism displays a supercilious contempt of Waring, then a young man, and profound ignorance of his work. Wilson's answer is temperate but keen, and displays the mistakes of his adversary in the strongest light. Waring's answer is equally temperate, and the neatness of the composition gives occasion to Powell to insinuate that he was assisted in writing it. The mathematicians were completely triumphant; and Powell left a useful proof of the disgrace and ridicule which may be incurred by a man of the first genius, who, stepping out of the circle

* It is worth 400l. per annum, and has been filled by Dr. Barrow, Sir Isaac Newton, Whiston, Dr. Sanderson, Colson, and Dr. Waring, who was succeeded by Dr. Milner, Master of Queen's College, and Dean of Carlisle.

of his studies, presumes to decide on subjects of which he is ignorant.

The turn of Judge Wilson's mind led him strongly to mathematical inquiries; but mathematical merit of the most distinguished kind is rewarded by little besides fame: he therefore determined to study the law, and, till his profession became lucrative, supported himself by private pupils at Cambridge, where he resided part of the year. The union which he exhibited of abilities and application must have been attended by the possession of extensive legal knowledge; but he did not excel in speaking, and could never become eminent at the bar. It appears, however, that his character stood high, as he was created a judge when of not more than the usual standing. His death happened shortly after his elevation; and as the highest dignities of the law are bestowed on its great public characters, we may conclude that he died in the full maturity of his honours.

Immediately after he obtained his bachelor's degree, Dr. Paley accepted the situation of assistant to the school at Greenwich, and left college. The exquisite and classical acting of Garrick had at that time diffused among literary men an universal fondness for the exhibitions of the stage, in which Dr. Paley very largely participated, and the vicinity of London to Greenwich enabled him frequently to indulge it. Whenever his engagements permitted him, and Garrick's appearance was advertised, he used to visit the theatre. He chose his seat in the pit, and in a part of it near the stage, having observed that Churchill,

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the first stage-critic of his time, always stood with his arm leaning on the orchestra.

After remaining about three years at Greenwich, he returned to Christ's College, and was elected a fellow of that society. Soon afterwards he was associated in the tuition together with the present Bishop of Elphin (Dr. Law). Dr. Shepherd, the late Plumian Professor, was the principal tutor, and taking one half of the profits for himself, divided the remaining half between Paley and Law. The characters of the assistants soon filled the college, and they were not slow in discovering their consequence. They insisted on what Dr. Law called a *trisection*; and after a long and obstinate resistance, Dr. Shepherd was persuaded to be content with receiving one third of the profits of the tuition, and not contributing a lecture to its support.

The character of Dr. Shepherd was very extraordinary. With no pretensions to mathematical excellence, he succeeded one of the first mathematicians of the age, the late Dr. Smith, in a professorship which was filled at its first institution by Cotes, and after Cotes by Smith. He always endeavoured to maintain the reputation of a scholar versed in natural philosophy; and being acquainted with the outsides of things, and able to display some knowledge of them, often succeeded. Several of the most eminent mathematical instrument makers in London looked up to him as a leading character in science, and were under his direction. Of music he had real knowledge, and his skill in it introduced him to the

acquaintance of Dr. Smith, who studied it as a philosopher, and has left a treatise on harmonics. The world he had observed with diligence, and he was an adept in business. During the latter part of his life his residence was in London. His connections among the great were very extensive, to whom he was recommended by his musical talents, and a fondness for their notice, which always leads to its own gratification. He died a few years ago possessed of a large fortune, which he had created himself.

After his return to college, Dr. Paley's time was ſpent in great exertion. His public lectures were prepared with much study and labour; and he bestowed some hours of every dayon private pupils. His lectures on "Moral and Political Philosophy" were an analysis of his celebrated work on those subjects; and the notes preserved by his pupils have given occasion to some accusations of want of originality in the work. Many of the arguments in the Evidences of Christianity are said to have been stated in his lectures on the Greek Testament. The mathematical and metaphysical departments were assigned to Dr. Law, who had a taste for mathematics, and persevered in the study with an ardor which taste alone can inspire. The university has seldom seen such a combination of talents; and the circumstance will be remembered, but cannot be expected soon to recur, of the students in a small college hearing a Law explain the difficulties of Locke and Newton, and a Paley deliver the principles of moral and political philosophy, and the evidences of Christianity.

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This union of labours cemented the intimate friendship between Dr. Paley and Dr. Law; which was ſo honorable to both, and afterwards ſo uſeful to Dr. Paley. It was founded on mutual admiration and esteem, and must have derived additional strength on Dr. Law's part from the pleasure of conferring favours, and on Dr. Paley's from gratitude for having received them. While in college, the greateſt part of the time which the business of their situations allowed them they spent together. In the vacations they made excursions into different parts of the kingdom, travelling in a gig, and attended by a ſervant. In an excursion to Bath, they were informed at the inn that a gentleman, who was alone, wished to sup with them. They immediately sent an invitation, and he sat with them to a late hour. The gentleman was unknown to both; but they agreed in thinking him the pleasantest companion they had ever met with. It afterwards appeared that they had been enjoying the conversation of the celebrated *John Wilkes.*

The Hyson Club, of which Gilbert Wakefield has left so copious an account in the memoirs of his own life, could, in the earlier part of Dr. Paley's residence in Cambridge, boaſt of many of its original members. It was founded by the Wranglers of Dr. Waring's year. They met, as the name itself of the club declares, to drink tea. No particular subject was discussed: the conversation was that of literary men unbending themselves. Dr. Paley was elected a member immediately after he became a fellow of Christ's College, and a very great intimacy always subsisted

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between him and Waring and Jebb, the two moſt diſtinguished ornaments of the society.

Dr. Gordon, the late Precentor of Lincoln, was a member of the Hyson. Between him and Dr. Jebb there existed a perpetual difference of opinion, which gave rise to perpetual argument. Dr. Gordon was a Tory of the last age, both in religion and politics. Dr. Jebb was a Whig, in the greateſt latitude of the denomination. In all their contests Dr. Gordon, though a man of great abilities, was the sufferer: he was hot and intemperate, while the coolness of Jebb both enabled him to perceive the advantages of the argument, and prejudiced the hearers in his favour. In a dispute concerning the innovations which Dr. Jebb was at that time proposing in our religious establishments, Dr. Gordon, with his usual heat, said, "You "mean, Sir, to force on us a new church govern-"ment." "You are mistaken," obſerved Dr. Paley, "Jebb only wants to ride his own horse, not to oblige "you to get up behind him."

When the regius professorship* of divinity was vacant by the death of Dr. Rutherforth, Dr. Gordon and the present Bishop of Llandaff contested the succession. The Bishop of Llandaff's interest was manifestly superior, and it was evident that he would be the successful candidate. It was necessary, however, before he could hold the professorship, that he should be created doctor of divinity, and it was the duty of Dr. Gordon, as the acting professor, to create him.

* Worth 1000l. per annum.

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In his speech on the occasion he remarked the peculiarity of the case.* "I am creating," said he, "a "son who is to destroy his father."

The intimacy between Dr. Paley and Dr. Waring was between two minds totally dissimilar. Dr. Paley's abilities have always been exerted to advance and facilitate useful knowledge; Dr. Waring's were perpetually employed on subjects the most useless, the most perplexing and perplexed that could be offered to the human mind. His genius was mathematical, and its strength appeared in abstract algebra, not in geometry or natural philosophy. His admirers may probably excuse what he has done, by urging what remained to be done. But a wide field is yet open to mathematicians. There is no reason to persuade us, that the future exertions of genius may not unfold secrets of nature as numerous and as valuable as those which have been already investigated. Let us hear from Waring himself what he has performed in one of his greateſt works: "*Hisce meditationibus finis jam imponendus est; hoc contentus quod transformationes, methodus detegendi impossibiles, affirmativas, et negativas radices, constitutiones, reductiones, et solutiones, æquationum exterminationes, irrationalium quantitatum; et proprietates integrorum numerorum, et æquationum, &c.: modis, ni fallor magis generalibus quam ab aliis factum est tradiderim.*†—*Med. Alg. Ed.* 1782, *ad finem.*

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* The Professor addresses the person created by the title of "Filius."

† I am now to conclude these meditations; and I am content with having explained in a more general manner than any preceding

No one can be even most superficially acquainted with Dr. Waring's works, without feeling convinced that he was possessed of extraordinary abilities; but this conviction must be attended by regret that they were exerted so little to the benefit of mankind. The primary and professed object of the work already mentioned is to facilitate the solution of a general equation of n dimensions.* In the firſt place, if the equation could be solved, no purpose of natural philosophy would be promoted. In the second place, it cannot be solved: nothing therefore has been done, except to make a few advances to an object which will never be attained. It may be asserted, and will be allowed, that the "*Meditationes Algebraicæ*" contain many beautiful theorems, and display profound algebraical skill: but the skill has been misapplied to a useless subject; and a few beauties cannot atone for the harshness, the obscurity, and the total absence of interesting matter, which form the general character of the book.

Dr. Waring used to assert, that his writings were understood only by two or three mathematicians in

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ing writers can boast of, transformations, the methods of discovering impossible, positive and negative roots, the nature of equations, the reducing and solving them, the exterminating irrational quantities from them, the properties of whole numbers, equations, &c.

* The equation is generally written thus:

$$x^{n} - px^{n-1} + qx^{n-2} - \&c. = o$$

and since the greatest index is n, the equation is said to be of n dimensions.

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Europe, and at the same time used to examine the B. A. candidates for Dr. Smith's prizes in them. What then could his examination be considered but an annual experiment, how much a bachelor of arts could remember of what he did not understand?

But whatever may be the character of his writings, his own was such as to secure the affection and efteem of all who enjoyed his acquaintance. Among those who survive him, Dr. Paley joins in regarding his memory with the greatest respect. Their attachment was founded on the goodness of his heart, the integrity of his principles, on his genius and knowledge; not on the charms of his conversation, which is represented as unentertaining, nor on the fascination of his manners, which, at least in the earlier part of his life, were destitute of all attractive polish. It is mentioned that at the Hyson Club, when he wished to explain a mathematical subject, he used to dip his finger into a tea-cup and draw a figure on the table, without very accurately observing whether the tea-cup was his own. There was about him a simplicity and an ignorance of the world, which amused his friends while it engaged their affection. This part of his character will be best displayed by an anecdote.

When he married he left Cambridge, and resided in a house at a short distance from it. As soon as Dr. Paley heard that he was arrived with his bride at his new house, he set off with another friend to call upon him. The house was large, and in passing along they observed a number of rooms without an article of furniture in them. At length they were

introduced

introduced to Dr. and Mrs. Waring, whom they found sitting in a spacious apartment, which contained only two chairs and a small table. On their mentioning their surprize at this scene of desolation, with which Mrs. Waring expressed herself much hurt, the Doctor observed, that he had always considered women as the best judges of furniture, and had imagined that he should consult Mrs. Waring's inclinations most effectually, by bringing her to an empty house, which she might furnish according to her own will and pleasure.

When an edition of the *Miscellanea Analytica* was printed, in 1774, Dr. Paley corrected the press. As he had neglected mathematical studies during some years before that time, and only long application and great exertion would have enabled him to understand such a work, it is probable that he merely attended to the orthographical errors. Dr. Waring acknowledged the obligation at the end of his preface, in the following high compliment: "*In hoc opere edendo plurimam debeo curis viri Reverendi Gul. Paley, in litteris humanioribus, et theologicis eruditissimi, et in veritatis investigatione ingenii viribus maximè pollentis.*"*

During his residence in the university, Dr. Paley was a frequent and very popular preacher at St. Mary's. Whatever was the subject he selected, he

* For his assistance in the editing of this work, I am greatly indebted to the Rev. W. Paley, a gentleman who is distinguished by his attainments in polite and sacred literature, and who exerts in the investigation of truth an extraordinary vigour of understanding.

never

never failed to place it in a new and distinct point of view. His sermons were not recommended by a splendid and oratorical style, and his manner of delivering them, though impressive, was not graceful; but they contained something so original and terse, so satisfactory and instructive, that they never failed to engage the attention and excite the admiration of his hearers. He did not preach to men of learning alone; he had the happy art of familiarizing the most difficult points, and of presenting his ideas in a form which was interesting to the highest capacity, and intelligible to the meanest.

Of his sermons very few have been given to the public, and those have been preached on public occasions. Ganganelli used to allege to his friends, who enquired why he published none of his writings, that he thought there were already too many books in the world; and Dr. Paley may probably be deterred from publishing his sermons by the just idea that our libraries are already crowded by the labours of voluminous preachers. But of those which load our shelves, how many wait for the signal of dismission in the appearance of more eloquent successors? The perspicuity and didactic force of his style, his felicity in seizing whatever is most useful and important in every subject, and placing it in the most striking light, would render his discourses a valuable addition to sacred literature; they would exist an ornament and a bulwark of rational religion.

When Lord Camden was sent to the university, an offer was made to Dr. Paley of the situation of

private tutor to his Lordship, which his engagements prevented him from accepting. By declining this offer he missed the Irish bishopric, which has been bestowed on Dr. Porter.

In 1773 Dr. Law left college. His father, the late Dr. Edmund Law, had been promoted to the Bishopric of Carlisle in 1768, and was now able to bestow considerable preferments on his eldest son. Dr. Paley must have greatly regretted the loss of the partner of his labours and his leisure, whose exertions, added to his own, had at that time elevated the college to an unexampled pitch of reputation. Every chamber was filled, and their pupils overflowed into lodgings in the town Many of these pupils were men of great fortune, who besides paying largely to the public tutor, paid in addition for private instruction.

In 1776 Dr. Paley left college and married. When he married, the only preferment he held was the small living of Dalston, in Cumberland, which was given to him by the Bishop of Carlisle. The large income which he enjoyed from his college situation would not have been given up, but with the expectation of something more considerable; an expectation which was doubtless founded on the tried friendship of Dr. Law, and the promises of the Bishop of Carlisle. In a very short time he was presented to the valuable living Appleby, in Westmoreland, which he held with Dalston.

It is said that the living of Appleby was given to Dr. Paley with the condition of his publishing the "Moral and Political Philosophy." The foundation

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of this work, as it has been already mentioned, was contained in the lectures on morals which he delivered to his college pupils. These were of course communicated to Dr. Law, who, anxious for the fame of his friend, and the instruction of the world, exerted all his influence to persuade Dr. Paley to enlarge them to their present form, and give them to the public. Judging of the fate of his own work from what had happened to other writings on the same subject, he was unwilling, after his marriage, to hazard the expence of printing a book which would not be bought. No doubts were entertained by the Bishop of Carlisle and Dr. Law concerning the success of the work; and in giving the living of Appleby with this condition, they had the pleasure of considering that they conferred on Dr. Paley two obligations.

In 1782 Dr. Law was created Bishop of Clonfert, and the archdeaconry of Carlisle, which he vacated by this promotion, was given to Dr. Paley. This, though the most honourable, was the least lucrative of the preferments held by Dr. Law. It is supposed that when the bishopric was offered him, a promise was required from the Bishop of Carlisle of the greater part of what he held for a person on whom the Duke of Portland, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, wished to bestow it. Dr. Paley accompanied him to Dublin and Clonfert, and preached the sermon at his consecration, which has since been published. About this time he exchanged the living of Appleby for a stall in the cathedral of Carlisle.

In 1785 appeared "The Principles of Moral and Political

Political Philosophy." In the dedication to the Bishop of Carlisle, the merits of his Lordship's character are displayed without flattery, and the favours conferred by him on the author are acknowledged in a manly and becoming style of gratitude. "Had the "obligations," says Dr. Paley, "which I owe to your "Lordship's kindness been much fewer, or much less "than they are; had personal gratitude left any "place in my mind for deliberation, or for enquiry, "in selecting a name which every reader might con-"fess to be prefixed with propriety to a work, that in "many of its parts bears no obscure relation to the "general principles of natural and revealed religion, "I should have found myself directed by many con-"siderations to that of the Bishop of Carlisle. A "long life spent in the most interesting of all human "pursuits, the investigation of moral and religious "truth, in constant and unwearied endeavours to ad-"vance the discovery, success, and communication "of both; a life so occupied, and arrived at that pe-"riod which renders every life venerable, commands "respect by a title which no virtuous mind will dis-"pute, which no mind sensible of the importance of "these studies to the supreme concernments of man-"kind, will not rejoice to see acknowledged." After stating the controversies in which his Lordship had been engaged, he adds, "At a time when some men ap-"pear not to perceive any good, and others to suspect "an evil tendency, in that spirit of examination and re-"search which is gone forth in Christian countries, this "testimony is become due, not only to the probity of

"your

"your Lordship's views, but to the general cause of "intellectual and religious liberty." The conclusion is peculiarly beautiful; and the whole dedication may be safely compared, in the propriety of its topics, in its elegance and dignity, with any composition of the same kind in the English language.

Writers on morals have always abounded. Of those who flourished in Greece and Rome, the names of many have been preserved, and the works of some have survived. The "*Libri de Officiis*" of Cicero, the most perfect treatise on the subject which appeared among the antients, and an epitome of all that preceded it, has come down to us without mutilation. But the morality of an heathen will to a Christian enquirer be at least incomplete, and the continual application of his principles to the circumstances of an inhabitant of Rome, which must at first have added so much to the interest of Cicero's work, renders it less useful to the modern world. It is now consulted from motives of literary curiosity, not for the purposes of moral instruction.

The Germans, who have laboured so much in every branch of literature, have in this exerted more than their usual industry. The libraries of the German universities are crowded with the voluminous writings of their Professors of moral philosophy. Most of these are in the form of commentaries or lectures on the celebrated book of Grotius, "*De Jure Pacis et Belli*," which first excited in Europe an ardour for the study of morals as a science. This book, at its ap-

pearance, was in the hands of kings and statesmen. The great Gustavus was so pleased with the perusal of it, that he determined to invite the author into his service,* and Queen Christina, at the suggestion of her Chancellor, Oxenstern, employed him eleven years as her embassador at Paris. Charles Lewis, the Elector of Palatine, valued the book so highly, that he appointed Puffendorf to read lectures on it in the university of Heidelberg; and to this appointment we owe the work of Puffendorf, which yields in celebrity only to that of his mafter. But of these writings Dr. Paley justly observes, "that they are of too forensic "a cast, too much mixed up with the civil law and "jurisprudence of Germany, to answer precisely the "design of a system of ethics—the direction of the "general conduct of human life; and that they are "more occupied in describing the rights and usages "of independent communities, than is necessary in a "work which professes not to adjust the correspon-"dence of nations, but to delineate the offices of do-"mestic life."

From the writers in our own language Dr. Paley had little to fear. Those who taught the last century have long reposed in oblivion. Dr. Rutherforth's treatise is never consulted but by professed students; and the essays of Mr. Hume can scarcely be thought to comprehend the science of morals. His system is imperfect, and all but infidel readers must confess that its principle is erroneous. Nothing had yet been

* Death prevented him from executing this determination.

produced to oppose a work which should derive from rational and religious sources the conclusions of morals, and apply them with brevity and precision to the existing condition of human society.

The first edition of the "Moral and Political Philosophy" appeared in 1785, and a thirteenth was published in 1800; the demand for it was therefore nearly at the rate of an edition every year. This extraordinary circulation may without difficulty be accounted for. It was very soon introduced into the university of Cambridge, as a book of examination; an honour in which it participates with the works of Newton and Locke. This circumstance insured it among the students an annual succession of purchasers. Its attractions to the general reader are uncommonly great. It presents a subject which has always been considered as harsh and difficult, in the most agreeable and most intelligible form. Its references to actual situations perpetually arrest the attention: we sit down to be informed of our duty, and are surprised to meet with amusement. No one whose weak or vitiated faculties do not incapacitate him for the enjoyment of serious speculations, will deny that the "Moral and Political Philosophy" is a book of entertainment.

In the science of morals, conclusions of mathematical certainty are not attainable. However clear may be the principle, however accurate the deductions, room must always be left for cavil and objection. Every book of general popularity will meet with particular opposition; and the opposition met with by the philosophy of Dr. Paley has been fully in propor-

tion to its popularity. Some no doubt have disapproved of his opinions, after bestowing on them a fair and candid consideration; but many have condemned them for reasons which rest on palpable errors, and the greatest virulence has been expressed by those who have joined in the cry, only because it was raised by men whom they imitate as wiser than themselves.

Mr. Gisborne, the author of various useful and excellent works, has published an attack on the principle of general expediency, by which he more than once asserts that it is completely overthrown. As Mr. Gisborne is certainly a man of sense and judgment, it was imagined that his most important objection proceeded from an oversight, which would be acknowledged and corrected in a second edition of his work. A fourth edition has however appeared, which contains all his first objections amplified and enforced. He asserts that the principle of general expediency, as applied by Dr. Paley, will lead us to innumerable conclusions contradicting the express commands of God, and that it cannot therefore be adopted by any one who allows the authority of the Scriptures. Now Dr. Paley, in stating the use of moral philosophy, informs us that its object is to supply information on those points which the Scriptures have left undecided; that it is to be silent when the Scriptures speak, and speak when they are silent. Mr. Gisborne insists very much on Dr. Paley's having proved from his principle that assassination, robbery, and perjury are unlawful, and totally overlooks or mistakes the nature of his argument. He supposes

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some one to object to his principle, that it permits these crimes. To destroy the objection, he proves that their unlawfulness may be clearly deduced from it. If he meant to offer the conclusions to which it conducts us, as superior in authority to the rules of Scripture, he was guilty of an absurdity in reasoning, which no one will be willing to impute to him. For on what is the principle established? on this, that its application will lead us by an excellent, but, from the imperfection of our faculties, an imperfect way to the will of God. Could he, therefore, without glaring contradiction, recommend the deductions from it as obligatory precedent to the morality of the Scriptures, which he has allowed to be declaratory of the will of God?

And from another consideration, independent of what has been already stated, the fallacy of Mr. Gisborne's objection, that the philosophy of Dr. Paley will often be in direct opposition to the will of God, immediately appears. The principle is derived from a demonstration of the divine benevolence. If then God wishes the happiness of mankind, all his commandments must be calculated to promote it; and therefore whatever he has commanded to be strictly and invariably observed, must be strictly and invariably consonant to the genuine philosophy accurately and justly deduced from the principle of general expediency.

It is not the business of the biographer of Dr. Paley to answer all the arguments which have been adduced by all the opposers of his philosophy. But as the

most important part of the history of a literary man is the history of his writings, it was thought proper to consider the objections already stated, which strike at the root of the reputation of Dr. Paley's greatest production, and which, if left without contradiction to operate on the public, might counteract the beneficial effects which a work so pregnant with information on the most momentous subjects is calculated to produce. It will not be considered as foreign to the present purpose to introduce another argument, which aims at proving that the principle cannot be applied, especially as it has, since Mr. Gisborne proposed it, been extended and enforced by Mr. Pearson, a writer of considerable reputation, in his "*Theory of Morals.*"

It will be proper to state the argument in Mr. Gisborne's own words.

"General expediency is an instrument which cannot be wielded "by a mortal hand. The nature of general consequences is too "comprehensive to be embraced by the human understanding, "too dark to be penetrated by human discernment. In contem-"plating an action, who can form any judgment of its remote and "collateral effects making unceasing approaches towards infinity "and eternity? yet in computing consequences, it makes no dif-"ference in what way or at what distance they ensue. In in-"stances the most level to our capacities, we perceive no more "than a part of the effects which may result from our conduct, a "part perhaps which in point either of extent or importance bears "no assignable proportion to that which remains unseen. A faint "glimpse of particular expediency is all that can ever be attained "by the wisest of men. A view of general utility is the property "of God alone: in him alone it is inherent. To created beings "it may be incommunicable; but whether incommunicable or "not, it can never be the foundation of a rule of conduct to those

"on

"on whom it has not been bestowed. A proof that general good "is highly difficult of investigation, would have rendered it improbable that mankind should in all cases be required to consult "it; a proof that it is never to be discerned, demonstrates the impossibility of their being required in any."

Now though this argument has an imposing aspect, the reader of penetration will instantly perceive that it is destitute of any real weight. There is one circumstance attending it, which will always excite suspicion in a mind accustomed to the investigation of truth: it deals in generals. Mr. Gisborne states a difficulty; he colours and aggravates it, but adduces no specific instance in which it appears to exist: and he has done wisely, for no action can be mentioned of which the expediency or inexpediency cannot be determined, without ascertaining all its consequences, if the sense be attached to that word in which Mr. Gisborne seems to understand it; for if among the consequences of an action be considered all the actions to which it gives rise, each producing new consequences in an unlimited series, then they may be said to be infinite. But any one will see, and Mr. Gisborne himself would have seen, had he reasoned from an example, that the expediency of an action is not to be collected from these infinite consequences. Suppose any action, its immediate consequences will belong entirely to itself, it may be the sole occasion of some other actions; but unless we conclude men to be mere machines, we cannot suppose that it will continue irresistibly to impel their conduct. If we allow that they either deliberate on the subjects it has presented to them, or that it has reached them mixed with other actions, in either

either case their decisions are not to be numbered among its consequences; the expediency therefore of an action is derivable from a few instances, which will immediately suggest themselves to the mind of an enquirer. If it be objected that its expediency is affected by all its consequences, however mixed, and however remotely connected with it, and that the knowledge of these is not attainable; this is only to object to Dr. Paley's rule what may be objected to every other rule, that it is not perfect. No point of conduct which has not been always problematical can be offered to our deliberation, of which we may not estimate the tendency either from our own experience or the experience of others, of which we may not determine whether, if committed by ourselves, and committed by every one, it is calculated to promote the happiness or misery of mankind.

Mr. Pearson, of whom it has been observed that he adopts the argument of Mr. Gisborne, which we have just been considering, was formerly tutor of Sidney College, Cambridge. When the "Moral and Political Philosophy" was introduced into the senate-house as a book of examination, he formed a course of lectures on its principal chapters for the instruction of his pupils, and in these were contained the objections which he has stated in the "Theory of Morals." Mr. Pearson's opposition to Dr. Paley is not so direct or universal as that of Mr. Gisborne. He proposes a new definition of virtue: he complains of the method of the work, as not strictly scientifical; but he does not assert in the strong language of Mr. Gisborne, that

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"the principle is liable in the hands of man to such "misapplication and perversion, that its general re- "ception would be apparently most unfavourable to "human happiness; that it is totally incompatible "with the precepts of Scripture, and that it never "could be designed or possibly can be adopted for "the regulation of human conduct."

Nor are Mr. Pearson and Mr. Gisborne the only writers who have disputed the opinions of Dr. Paley. Dr. Crofts, an author of considerable eminence, in a work on the subject of morals, has published some remarks on the "Moral and Political Philosophy;" and it was attacked soon after its appearance by an anonymous writer in the Gentleman's Magazine. It has been asserted that the writer was Mrs. Jebb, the widow of Dr. John Jebb, a lady of spirit and learning. But all this hostility has provoked no resistance from Dr. Paley: his passiveness has doubtless originated in a sense of perfect security. He has seen the works of his advertaries live in a temporary popularity which they derived from him: he has seen them sink into neglect, while editions of his own work have been multiplied without example. Its reputation has been continually and universally spreading, and the few voices which opposed it have been drowned in the clamour of general approbation.

In 1789 the Bishop of Ely offered to him the mastership of Jesus College, Cambridge. His preferments at Carlisle, which required residence at least during part of the year, determined him, after great hesitation, to decline so honourable and desirable a situation.

situation. In the dedication of the Evidences of Christianity to his Lordship, Dr. Paley observes,

"The circumstances under which this offer was made demand "a public acknowledgment. I had never seen your Lordship; I "possessed no connection which could possibly recommend me to "your favour; I was known to you only by my endeavours, in "common with many others, to discharge my duty as a tutor in "the university, and by ſome very imperfect, but certainly well "intended, and as you thought, useful publications since. In an "age by no means wanting in examples of honourable patronage, "although this deserve not to be mentioned in respect of the object "of your Lordship's choice, it is inferior to none in the purity "and disinterestedness of the motives which suggested it."

It may be added, that on this occasion the Bishop of Ely demonstrated both his inclination to patronize merit and his judgment in selecting it.

The "Moral and Political Philosophy" established the reputation of Dr. Paley, and the public was prepared to admire his next production, the "*Horæ Paulinæ*." It is dedicated, in an affectionate address, to his friend Dr. Law. The epistles of St. Paul, as the name indicates, form the subject of the work: nothing which he has written displays greater powers. Of the "*Horæ Paulinæ*" Mr. Gisborne observes, that "it "possesses the combined merits of originality, acute-"ness and sound reasoning, in a degree seldom equal-"led." It has however been more praised than read. The common reader has been attracted by the more universal reputation of the "Evidences of Christianity;" and though the arguments are distinct, though they contain information original, peculiar, and of the highest importance, they have undoubtedly interfered with each other.

At

At the beginning of the present war, when there was an alarming prospect of internal commotion from the prevalence of French principles, Dr. Paley performed the part of a good citizen, and contributed his efforts to reclaim the public mind from the delusion under which it laboured, in a small pamphlet, entitled "Reasons for Contentment." This pamphlet, notwithstanding the universal interest of the subject, was not very generally read, and by those who read it, it was not very generally admired; the side he took was unpopular. It was intended and calculated for the information of the commonest minds. It therefore did not admit of any topics on which the abilities of Dr. Paley could be exerted; but we are always disappointed, however unreasonably, not to find in the productions of great writers the marks of their superiority.

The "View of the Evidences of Christianity" was published in 1794. Two works had, not long before, appeared on the same subject by two distinguished authors, Dr. Beilby Porteus and Dr. Beattie. Dr. Beattie has established a splendid reputation in almost every branch of literature, and the work of Dr. Porteus was recommended equally by his acknowledged abilities and his exalted station. The plans of his predecessors, however, being different from his own, Dr. Paley was not deterred from again soliciting the attention of the public. The reception of his book, under such circumstances, must have exceeded his most sanguine expectations; in two years five large editions were sold: it has become a standard work

with students in divinity; and every author, whose subject allowed him to notice it, has confessed and insisted on its merits.

Before Dr. Paley rendered this important service to the cause of Christianity, he had experienced the patronage of Dr. Edmund Law, and of Dr. Vernon, the present Bishop of Carlisle. Almost immediately after the appearance of the "View of the Evidences," the Bishop of London gave him a vacant prebend in the cathedral of St. Paul's. The sub-deanery of Lincoln was offered to him at the same time by Dr. Prettyman; and in a few weeks the greatest of all his preferments, the living of Bishop-Wearmouth, supposed to be worth 1500l. per annum, was added to this accumulation by the Bishop of Durham. As the Bishop of Lincoln promised the sub-deanery, with the condition that Dr. Paley's stall at Carlisle should be at his disposal, and the Bishop of Durham required the power of giving away a living to which the Bishop of Carlisle had presented him, Dr. Vernon had an opportunity of demonstrating that he participated in the sense which his brethren entertained of Dr. Paley's distinguished merit, and in their disposition to reward it. The stall which he vacated was given to a gentleman* who had been private tutor to the Bishop of Lincoln.

After the death of his first patron, Dr. Edmund Law, the editors of the Encyclopœdia Britannica applied to him for an account of that celebrated prelate, which he contributed, and which now appears in the work.

* The Rev. William Sheepshanks.

It is short, and may be rather denominated a character than a life. It is however very interesting, and breathes a warmth which such a subject would naturally excite in the writer's mind.

Collyer's "Sacred Interpreter" was re-published by Dr. Paley, and recommended by him to the attention of the public. He was examining chaplain during many years to the Bishop of Carlisle, and had frequent opportunities of observing its usefulness. His recommendation, added to its own merits, bestowed a considerable degree of popularity on the work, which it still continues to enjoy.

The writings of Dr. Paley, which display great knowledge of the human heart, and great acquaintance with common life, prove that this knowledge may be acquired by reading and thinking, without perpetually mixing in various and crowded society. His life has been spent in the retirement of a college and of a provincial town. To the metropolis, where alone living pictures of the human mind in all its forms are exhibited, he has only paid short and occasional visits. This circumstance has made his connections with the republic of letters rest almost solely on his works. An eminent writer resident in the capital is naturally connected with many of the literary characters which a great city always attracts and retains. But Dr. Paley's friendships are not among authors; and there is perhaps no writer of the same celebrity of whose history less has been communicated to the public.

His writings are on serious subjects, admitting of the

the display only of powerful reasoning, and profound and accurate thinking; but his conversation is distinguished by a perpetual flow of exquisite and original humour, and by a sprightliness and felicity of expression peculiar to himself. His anecdotes are happy combinations of amusing circumstances, not tedious by their length, or disgusting by frequent repetition. He betrays no literary fastidiousness: the most trifling subjects of the day are sometimes adorned by his wit. It will be esteemed a proof, though it is not a pleasing one, of his powers, that many who have been delighted by his conversation, have been astonished in recollecting its topics to discover their meanness, when no longer dazzled by the brilliancy of the circumstances with which his genius had connected them.

He has a fondness for company, which always attends the power of pleasing it. Since he obtained the living of Bishop-Wearmouth, and the sub-deanry of Lincoln, he has divided his residence between those two places, and mixes a good deal in the societies which they afford, though not so much as to interfere with the domestic habits which his literary pursuits and a large family have necessarily produced.

It may here with propriety be mentioned, as an article of literary intelligence, that Dr. Paley's abilities have been for some time employed on a very important subject,* and that the public may expect soon to enjoy the fruits of his labours.

* The subject is understood to be "Natural Theology."

ROBERT RODDAM, Esq.

ADMIRAL OF THE WHITE, *&c. &c. &c.*

ADMIRAL RODDAM is brother to the late Edward Roddam, of Roddam, in the county of Northumberland, Esquire, and third son of Edward Roddam, of Roddam, and Little Houghton, Esquire, by Jane, daughter of Robert Shelly, Esquire, born at Richmond, in Yorkshire, and a merchant of Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The family of Roddam is believed to be one of the most primeval in the British dominions; the *Scottish Heraldry* most likely contains their more *remote lineage*, as upon an old pedigree of the family is written the following grant, in Saxon characters:

"I King Athelston gives unto the Pole Roddam,
"From mee and mine, to thee and thine,
"Before my wife Maude, my daughter Maudlin, and my eldest
"son Henry,
"And for a *certen* truth,
"I bite this wax with my gang tooth,
"So long as a *muir* bears moss, and —— —— *hare*,
"A Roddam of Roddam for ever *mare*."

The English Heraldry first mentions Eleanora Roddam, married to Robert Umfraville, Earl of Angus, anno 1184, 31st H. II. ob. 2 E. II. Vin. No. 149, fo. 79. and Dug. Bar. 1. Vol. fo. 506, in the College of Arms.

Lucy, daughter and heir of Philip de Rime, I. 10.

Sir John Roddam, of Roddam, Knight, Lord of Houghton, in right of his wife Ellen, daughter and heiress of John Houghton, of Houghton, in the county of Northumberland, Esquire. Sir John Roddam was slaine in the Palme Sunday ffielde with the Earle of Northumberland

Northumberland in battaile, the 7th anno 1491, the 19th day of March.

William de Roddam.

Thomas.

William de Roddam, 49th King Henry III.

William married the daughter and heiress of Thomas D'Esplee, King Edward II.

Sir John slain at the battle of Towton, Edward III.

Joane, daughter of Adam de Roddam, married Thomas de Umfraville, ob. 10 Rich. II.

John — — — 1st King Edward IV.

Robert — — — 6th King Edward VI.

John — — — 10th Queen Elizabeth, &c. &c. &c.

and from those the Roddams, of Roddam, have descended in a direct line to this day, intermarrying with the families of

Greys, of Chillingham, in Northumberland;

Selbys, Brandlings, of Gosforth;

Forstors, of Etherston;

Swinburnes, of Eethingham;

Lisles, of Felton, *&c. &c. &c.*

The Roddams had originally possessed a great portion of the north part of Northumberland; but the little progress of improvement, added to the varying governments and warring events of former ages, caused their property to be much reduced; which is laughably and satirically noticed by the laconic author of a supposed will of a northern clergyman, written near thirty years ago, who laments that the proud Roddams and Delavals, who merrily dance in *their rags*, cannot sell their lineage. King Athelston's grant of the only part of the antient inheritance that they now retain is circumstantially and more particularly

larly mentioned in *Historia Majoris Britanniæ tam Angliæ quam Scotiæ; per Joannam Majorem, nomine quidem Scotum professione autem Theologum è veterum monumentis concinnata*, giving certain and indubitable proofs of the antiquity of their ancestry; in which the author, mentioning an irruption of the English into Scotland in the reign of King Richard the Second, says, When they burnt the monasteries of Melros, Driburg, Newbottel, and Edinburgh, and returned back without damage. After their departure, Robert Stewart, Earl of Fife, second son of the King of Scotland, having with him James Earl of Douglas, and Archibald Earl of Galway, with thirty thousand men, entered England by Solway Frith, and finding the adjacent country rich and abundant, carried off very great spoil. While he was there, a most ancient charter was brought to their commander Robert, in which was thus written,

> I King Athelston
> Giffis heir to Paulane
> Odam and Roddam
> Als gud and als fair
> Als evir tha myn ware
> And *yair to witness Mald my wife.

The same Robert, then Duke of Albany, was chosen Governor of Scotland (during the detention of his nephew King James the First in England), whenever he heard long charters and other similar writings, he used to say, that in ancient times there

* Yair to, would be anciently written in Saxon characters ẏaiꞃꞇo.

was more probity and good faith, when our ancestors were not yet accustomed to such minute prolixity in their conveyances. And this opinion he exemplified by these letters patent of King Athelston, which he was wont to recite from memory on such occasions. Such is the substance of the curious and memorable passage referred to in page 265, Majoris Britanniæ.

Eodem tempore Richardus Anglus Scotiam ingreditur: monasteria de Melros, Driburgo, Newbottill et Edinburgense combussit, et sine damno hinc ad sua rediit. Post cujus discessum Robertus Stewartus, comes Fifensis, regis secundo genitus, secum habens Jacobum comitem Douglasseum et Archibaldum, Douglasseum comitem Galwyeum, cum triginta millibus vivorum Angliam ingreditur per arenam de Sulvey: qui illic terram frugiferam et opulentam invenientes prædam maximam abducunt. Ad Robertum capitaneum illic antiquissima charta delata est, in qua sic scribebatur; I King Athelstane giffis heir to Paulane, Odam and Rodam, als gud and als fair als evir tha myn ware; and yair to witness Mald my wyff. Et cum iste Robertus postea dux Albaniæ et Scotiæ gubernator electus esset, dum longas chartas et literas audiebat, sic dicere solitus erat, quod in diebus antiquis major erat fidelitas et probitas, in quibus majores hac prolixitate non sunt usi. Et hoc probavit per literas Athelstani quas memoriter recitare consueverat. Hoc est Latine dicere; ego Rex Athelstanus de Paulanæ dominium de Odam et Rodam, ita libere sicut ego hæc possedi: et huic dono Matildis mea uxor testimonium debit. Archibaldo Douglasseo suit filius illigitimus Guillelmus nomine, in re militari clarissimus, qui hostium magnas catervas paucis essundere solebat; qui ob suas virtutes in Regis Roberti gratiam sic devenit, ut rex ei filiam Ægidiam nomine matrimonio tradiderit cum dominio de Niddisdale eis et eorum hæredibus imperpetuum.

Notwithstanding Roddam lies at a great distance from that part of England which the Scotch ravaged at their first entrance by Solway Frith; yet it is not unlikely

unlikely but a detachment might have entered Northumberland at the same time (as was their usual practice upon such occasions), finding the writing in question, brought it to Robert while his head-quarters were in Cumberland or Westmoreland, &c. &c. And as Major appears to quote the lines only from Duke Robert's recital of them, this will account for their having been somewhat modernized and altered from the genuine Saxon of King Athelston's original grant. It is a well known fact that King Athelston gained a great victory over the Scots and Danes (which is briefly mentioned in the *Historia Majoris Britanniæ, tam Angliæ quam Scotiæ,* page 92) in the country near Roddam, where he commanded in person, so that he probably rewarded Pauline by this grant upon the spot for his good services. Pauline probably derived his name and defcent from one of the old Northumbrians, who were converted and baptized by Paulinus, the great apostle of the north, as is described by Bede their countryman, and afterwards by Camden, &c.

It is mentioned in Leland's Collectanea, vol. ii. page 571, A. D. 1351.

"Gilbert Rodam having fifty-three glayves with him, and eighty "archers, fought with Reynald de Gulion, capitaine of Parys, near "Stampes (now Etampes, in Normandy), that had seven hundred "men of armes and four hundred brigantes with him. Gilbert "was slayen there; yet the Englishman had the victory, and Reynald was there taken prisoner; but he, by the help of a false "Englishman, was convayied or ever he had payid his rannsom."

Leland's Itinerary, written during the reign of King Henry the Eighth, also mentions, vol. v. page 93,

"The Roddams, or Rudhams, were men of fair landes in "Northumbrelande, about Tylle river, ontyl one of them having "to wife one of the Umflaville daughters, killed a man of name, "and thereby lost the principale of eight hundred markes by yere; "so that at this time Roddam, or otherwise Rudham, of North-"umbrelande, is but a man of mene landes."

Admiral Roddam (the subject of these memoirs) went to sea a midshipman in the Lowestoffe, in the year 1735-6. He served also as midshipman in the Russell, Cumberland, and Boyne, and was upon the Antigua station with Capt. Drummond of the Lowestoffe more than five years. Sir Chaloner Ogle then took him into his own ship, on his way to Jamaica, to join Admiral Vernon, whom he accompanied on the different expeditions to Hispaniola, Carthagena, the island of Cuba, Cumberland harbour, &c. &c. The young sailor shewed great valour and intrepidity, yet had the good luck to escape, though a part of his coat was shot off by a cannon-ball. On the 3d of November, 1741, he was made third lieutenant on board the Superb, in Cumberland harbour, the honourable William Harvey captain, in which ship he returned the same year to England, and had the good fortune to save the ship (though so young an officer) twice on her passage home. The Superb was paid off at Plymouth in 1742, and Lieutenant Roddam was commissioned third lieutenant of the Monmouth the 7th of September, 1742. Charles Wyndham, Esq. (uncle to the late Secretary at War), commanded the Monmouth; he was a most correct

 and

and excellent officer. Being on a cruize off the island of Teneriffe, the captain (as was his constant practice at night) gave his orders particularly that every incident should be inserted in the log-book. Lieutenant Roddam, as first watch, received Captain Wyndham's commands to put the ship about at twelve o'clock, which he unsuccessfully attempted to do three times, although there was no apparent obstacle to its being done; and when Lieutenant Hamilton went upon deck to relieve the watch, Roddam told him that witchcraft must have prevented the ship from going about, and bidding Hamilton go forward, in his presence he once more attempted it, when the ship missed stays a fourth time; which circumstance, as it proved in the event, was directed at least by good luck, for so much time was thus occupied, that day-light commencing, a sail was perceived in sight a-head of the Monmouth, which they chased, and took; it proved to be a Spanish ship of at least one hundred thousand pounds value, and which would not have been seen but for this accident. Lieutenant Roddam related this circumstance to his captain soon after, at the same time reminding him that his custom of inspecting the log-book had been neglected, or he would there have seen that his commands had not been obeyed; but Captain Wyndham's good fortune had of course made him forgetful of his own rule, and he was much pleased at the lucky circumstance that had stayed the hand of his young lieutenant. On the 14th of July, 1744, young Roddam was made second lieutenant of the same ship, Captain Henry Harrison

 then

then commander, and on the 14th of July, 1746, he was promoted to the command of his Majesty's sloop Viper. About this time Lord Anson (then Mr. Anson) a Lord of the Admiralty, went to Portsmouth to command the western squadron, and expressing a strong wish to all the captains to stop a fleet at that time lying at Plymouth, they urged the impracticability of the undertaking in a high south-west wind, and ſtated many other concurring obſtacles. Mr. Roddam, the youngest captain, instantly undertook to try the possibility of stopping them, though his sloop being just off the stocks, was in every way incomplete, and he performed Mr. Anson's wish with a readiness and alacrity which shewed that quickness and steadiness are not incompatible, but when united, may effect what neither separately can accomplish. This was so strong a recommendation to that great naval officer Lord Anson, that he immediately wrote to the Lords of the Admiralty for leave to take Captain Roddam under his command. In the course of that year Admiral Sir Peter Warren, then commanding the western squadron, received intelligence from a Bristol privateer that more than thirty sail of vessels were in Sidera bay, near Cape Ortugal, laden with naval stores. Sir Peter enquired if the privateer's captain could carry in any of his Majesty's ships; to which he replied in the negative. The admiral then asked if any battery sheltered them; and being answered that there were two, and that the entrance was very narrow, he determined to relinquish the attempt as impracticable. Captain Harrison, of the Mon-

mouth,

mouth, being present, recommended the Admiral to send the Viper, which Roddam commanded, adding, "He would answer for that young man effecting all "that human nature could perform;" and on that day, being Saturday, Captain Roddam received his orders, to sail in the evening, and was off the first battery next morning, which he carried, destroyed all the guns, and also took a privateer then coming out: he proceeded into the bay, burnt more than thirty sail of vessels, and on the third day rejoined his Admira with three or four prizes, not being able to man more from his little sloop of fourteen guns and ninety men and boys. The town offered to surrender to his own terms; but Captain Roddam told the inhabitants that he did not come there to aggrandize himself and crew by distressing harmless individuals, but only such as armed against Great Britain, the number of whom were at the first battery amounted to about five hundred men. Upon Captain Roddam's return to the squadron, he was met and received at the entering port by Admiral Sir Peter Warren, who taking him in his arms, thanked him most warmly for the most important service he had rendered his country, which, with his answer to the inhabitants, so pleased and gratified this gallant and humane Admiral, that his statement of the affair to the Lords of the Admiralty immediately obtained Captain Roddam the command of the Greyhound frigate, of 24 guns, with the rank of post-captain, to which he was appointed the 7th of July, 1747. On his return to England in the Viper, being off Portsmouth, and no otherwise known to its inhabitants

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than from the account of his conduct in Sidera bay, they immediately offered and earnestly solicited Captain Roddam to become their reprefentative in parliament; this honour he repeatedly refused, as well as many offers from boroughs at various times tendered to him.

Captain Roddam served in the Greyhound frigate in Holland, under Commodore Mitchell: he was afterwards ordered to join Admiral Watson at Louisburgh, and was by him stationed at New York three years, from whence he returned to England in 1751, and on the 30th of January, 1753, was commissioned for the Bristol guardship, of 50 guns, at Plymouth, where he served about a year, and in 1755 he was appointed to the Greenwich, also a 50 gun ship, sailed to the West Indies, and was upon the Jamaica station till 1757. At this period, being on a cruize off Hispaniola, on the 16th of March early in the morning, plying off Cape Cabroon, the Greenwich fell in with four French line of battle ships, two frigates and a storeship, which the officers and crew of the Greenwich all fully supposed and asserted were merchantmen convoyed by two frigates; but Captain Roddam saw otherwise, and though late convinced his ship's company of their mistake, as they proved to be the Tonnant, of 84 guns, commanded by Admiral Bofromont; the Desauncene, of 74, Captain Blonal; the Diadem, 74, Captain Rosele; l'Eveille, of 64, Captain Merville; Inflexible, of 64, and the Savage and Le Bronne frigates, with a twenty gun storeship. This squadron being to windward sent one of the frigates to

reconnoitre,

reconnoitre, which Captain Roddam perceiving, and finding there could be no chance to escape, used every manœuvre to draw her toward the Greenwich. This ship being painted in the manner of the French, he hoped to decoy the frigate, for which he had prepared men to board, with an intention of sending her immediately to Admiral Townshend at Jamaica, with intelligence of the situation and number of the enemy; but the French frigate soon discovering the Greenwich to be a two-decked ship, made great exertion to shelter herself amidst the French squadron. The Diadem first began firing at nine o'clock, and from that hour till nine at night the Greenwich was incessantly attacked by one or other of the fleet. Captain Roddam again prepared to board the l'Eveille a 64, being the best sailing ship; but several of the enemy renewing the action at the same time, the Greenwich became so much injured in her rigging, that she was quite unmanageable, which compelled Captain Roddam to relinquish his hopes of boarding. He then called his ship's company together, and told them he had done all in his power to preserve his Majesty's ship, but if any of them could point out the French admiral's ship the Tonnant, he thought the Greenwich could yet divert her an hour or two. The officers (of whom the present Admiral Sir James Wallace, then a lieutenant, was one) and the whole ship's company answered, "They must obey their "captain; but they had been unceasingly shot at for "twelve hours, and supported an action they believed "longer

"longer than any ship had ever before sustained."*

At half after nine at night, it being the opinion of all the officers that Captain Roddam had done every thing that could be done for his Majesty's service, and that engaging any further could only tend to sacrificing the men; the fixty-four gun ship being then within hail, and the others close a-stern of her, Captain Roddam ordered the colours to be struck: the French ship l'Eveille presently hailed Captain Roddam to hoist out a boat and go on board the fixty-four, which he repeatedly refused to do; and finding his interpreter had said, "every thing being cut away "they could not get a boat out," instead of saying, "Captain Roddam *would not*," he himself hailed, and enquiring if any one on board the l'Eveille spoke English, he was replied to by a voice he knew, a Mr. Giddy, a Danish officer, who had served in the preceding war with Captain Norris in the Prince Frederick. Captain Roddam then told Mr. Giddy he would not go on board the French man of

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* This appears upon the very honourable court-martial held the 14th of July, 1757, on board his Majefty's fhip Marlborough, on which the whole fhip's company were called by Captain Roddam's request, and gave their opinion upon oath that Captain Roddam was a gentleman that *would* fight. Each feaman examined at the court-martial, upon being asked by the court, "if their captain did "every thing that an officer could do for the prefervation of the "ship?" anfwered, "Yes, we are all fure he did; for he is a "gentleman *that will fight*, and he did as much or more than could "be expected in the situation we were in, and did every thing in "his power to get away from the enemy."

war

war in his own boat, but *must* be sent for, which if not complied with, he would hoist the British colours immediately and defend his ship as long as she could swim. The French lieutenant then went on board the Greenwich, and found the men all at their quarters, with lighted matches in their hands, and the greatest order prevailing throughout the ship (of which under like circumstances there had never been a precedent), and which seeming to alarm and surprize the French lieutenant, Captain Roddam told him, " He had there seen a garrison capitulate to a " very superior force, and ready to renew the fight if " the French had *not* done as he required." Captain Roddam was then taken on board the l'Eveille, Captain Merville, who instead of sending for his own bedding, gave him that night one of the ship's company's cradles, with a dirty rug, which seemed to have been employed in the *last office* for many a poor mariner in the French ship; and Captain Roddam's anxious mind not having allowed him to think of dressing when he struck (which was at that time an invariable custom of the French), he was of course next morning extremely black and dirty, with torn shoes and tattered habiliments, damaged by splinters during the long action; and although he had so feelingly urged and solicited kind treatment for his officers and men, yet had he the painful reflection to know, that all except the lieutenants were put among the foremast men; his purser's cloaths were taken off his back, and his steward was kept waiting on the poop without victuals ten hours; every place was broken

open

open and ransacked, though the French lieutenant (who had the key of bureau, &c.) had given *his word of honour* to the contrary; and the whole crew of the Greenwich were without food. Captain Roddam insisted upon being carried to the French admiral, that he might complain of ill treatment, and was at last summoned to his presence in the uncomfortable habiliments mentioned, and in such a condition, as would have caused a British victor to have blushed at in a prisoner of the meanest rank. Monsieur Bofromont and his countrymen were sparing of every thing but civil speeches, which could neither clothe nor feed Britain's brave tars. Captain Roddam told the admiral that Captain Merville and his officers had acted in so cruel and improper a way in every respect, that they ought to be broke. He was asked what had induced him to hold so unequal a contest, and to refuse to hoist his boat out? he answered, that having very lately heard that an English man of war had been taken by a French line of battle ship and a frigate, and that the Captain had been compelled to carry his sword in his own boat to the frigate; but that such a disgrace could not have happened to him, for *his sword so required* should only have been delivered through the body of the person demanding it in a manner so degrading and insulting. Himself and his brave ship's company were taken to Hispaniola, where the governor gave him leave to see his people every day, which after some time was refused by the sentinels on duty. His men enquired with much anxious solicitude if their captain was murdered,

dered, as they well knew he would not desert them while he lived; but receiving no satisfactory answer, they seized the guard, armed themselves and sallied forth, demanding their captain, which obliged the governor to send for Captain Roddam and entreat him to quell his men. The captain answered, "That being a prisoner on parole he had no right to command, and his unfortunate shipmates had been so ill treated by the *Intendant (then present)*, that had his situation been otherwise than it was he would certainly have headed them." The governor again desired him to appease his men: to which he answered, "He believed he could still exercise his influence, provided he was promised proper treatment for them, and permission to himself to visit them every day." On his joining his brave crew they gave three cheers, saying, *Now he* was once more their leader, he knew *what he could do.* His reply referred them to their own knowledge of the great force then at the Cape; but the men still persisting, he added, "He certainly had no right to command, being like them a prisoner, and had given his parole and word of honour to the governor, therefore if they did not return to their prison he had nothing more to do with them." Upon this they immediately obeyed, and during the remainder of their stay were much better treated. About two months after they were all embarked with their captain and officers for Jamaica, except one lieutenant, who died at the Cape, and one who remained there, having been wounded: some deserters from other men of war were also put on board the cartel

with

with them; and these deserters dreading the issue of their trials when they should arrive at Jamaica, they induced some of the crew who had belonged to the Greenwich to consent to put them on shore at Port Morant (which is too frequently done in cartels), as the sailors think the landing there prevents their being sent to men of war, and consequently gives them liberty; but Captain Roddam overhearing a lieutenant recommending them to be cautious, went upon deck, expressed his determination not to suffer them to go to any other port, and ordered them to be put on board men of war; to which they submitted in quietness. Upon his arrival at Jamaica, Captain Roddam was tried by a court-martial, in Port Royal harbour. When the court presented the sentence to Admiral Coates, commander in chief, he immediately complimented Captain Roddam, by giving him the minutes of the court, with a request that he would print them, as reflecting great credit on the service, and the British flag; it was accordingly printed at Kingston, in Jamaica.

Captain Roddam returned to England upon parole in a packet, and about half way on the passage the vessel met with a hard gale of foul wind: when it ceased, Captain Roddam observed the master manœuvring in a manner that would probably sink the packet, which he mentioned to the master, who replied, "He had orders not to lose a moment." Captain Roddam told him, "More time would be lost if the vessel went to the bottom, which seemed to him certain;" and the moment she gathered way down she

went,

went. The master deplored his misfortune in not taking advice. "Then follow it *now*," said Captain Roddam; and under *his* directions the packet was righted in half an hour, but so strained with the weight of water, that her water-way seams were fully opened.

Arriving off Ushant, they perceived a sail bearing down upon them, and Captain Roddam observing no preparation for resistance, enquired what the master meant to do? who answered, "His orders were *not* to fight, but pursue his course as fast as possible." Upon which Captain Roddam ordered a lighted match, and himself turned a gun and fired it at the vessel; but seeing her go off, he told the master and ship's company that the impression of being upon parole had escaped him at the moment; that he could not in honour fight, but by following his advice the vessel might be in their possession in half an hour; by his means the packet was saved twice.

As soon as Captain Roddam was exchanged, he went out passenger in the Montague to Sir Edward (afterwards Lord) Hawke, and took the command of the Colchester under his Lordship, off Ushant, the 7th of December, 1759, in which ship he was sent to Plymouth to procure what the Colchester wanted, and to conduct any convoy that might be ready for that station; with which in ten days the Colchester rejoined Sir Edward Hawke, who ordered Captain Roddam commanding her, with Captain Hervey in the Monmouth, and Captain Rowley in the Montague, to watch the French fleet close off Brest. Three French men of war came out, which the English

lish ships chased within the batteries, and run one of them on shore. After this service, Captain Roddam was ordered to relieve Captain Duff off Belleisle; on which occasion he carried the Colchester through the narrow rocky passage (Le Ras), between the Saints and the shore, into Audierne bay, and was believed to be the firſt Engliſh ſhip that ever made the attempt. When he had arrived at his destination, Captain Roddam received orders to watch a convoy with sixteen frigates, supposed by government to be bound for Ireland, with troops; but his little squadron not having force enough to meet the whole of the frigates, (and to insure success, he gave the men of war under his command orders to *dash* amongst the convoy, and if possible to avoid engaging the frigates, but to endeavour to cut away the masts of the transports, which he knew would entirely destroy the expedition. Upon receiving these orders, a friend of Captain Roddam's, serving under him, went on board the Colchester, and asked him if there was not some mistake in the British being ordered *not* to fight, as they would be called cowards. Captain Roddam replied, "The charge of cowardice could *alone* be applied to himself, who had given those orders." His friend (now living) then enquired what Captain Roddam meant to do? he answered, "To shew there was no cowardice, he should fight the whole number of frigates, and trusted some of them would be sent to the bottom." Some time after this Captain Reynolds joined this little squadron in the Firm, and being senior officer, took the

the command, but unluckily he had with him only one pilot, though he was sent on that station with particular orders to endeavour to destroy the convoy then lying in Rochfort river. Upon his arrival he called a council of the officers, to consult if it was possible to effect the commands of the Lords of the Admiralty; their unanimous opinion confirmed the entire impracticability of such an attempt with one pilot. Upon which Captain Roddam said, "He had fully given his opinion, according entirely with the other captains, that it could not be done; but his ship (the Colchester) being an old man of war, and not worth much, the loss of her would be trifling for the good of the service, and with Captain Reynolds' concurrence he would make the *trial* with the boats to assist him." But Captain Reynolds and the rest of the council were against his running the risk. Upon which Captain Roddam observed, "That he himself had been in command the day preceding, and he would give it under his hand that, circumstanced as above, *he* should have made the attempt;" but the general voice finally decided it otherwise. Captain Roddam then recommended Captain Reynolds to cruize with a part of the frigates off one opening of Belleisle, and send the Colchester off the other; but after putting this plan in execution, it was found the next morning that the convoy had passed Captain Reynolds, and got into the river Vans. After this, Captain Duff, in the Rochester, arrived there to command with several other ships, and finding the Colchester very leaky, and in want of provisions,

 gave

gave orders for her to return to Plymouth, which port she reached, making five foot water an hour; but notwithstanding her being in that condition, Commodore Hanaway sent some caulkers on board, and ordered her immediately to join Sir Edward Hawke, off Vans, with a convoy. Upon this order being executed, Sir Edward Hawke asked Captain Roddam, who had sent him out with a ship in that condition, and ordered him directly back to Plymouth, where being better refitted, Captain Roddam was directed to sail to St. Helena, with the Rippon, Captain Jeekill, under his command, to bring home the fleet from the East Indies. Previous to their sailing from St. Helena, Admiral Sir George Pocock joined them, and in their passage home, off Scilly, being in a great fog, Captain Roddam supposing the Colchester not far from the island, and the other ships to be still nearer, made a signal *to tack*, which Sir George Pocock honoured him by repeating, and afterwards thanked him. And when off Dover, also in a fog, and much wind, after the admiral's making a signal for lying-to, Captain Roddam seeing the South Foreland, ventured to make a signal for the convoy's bearing away to the Downs, for which the admiral *also thanked him*, knowing several of the convoy were in danger; and added, if he could have been certain of Captain Roddam's so doing, he should have run his own ship into the North Sea, knowing his anchors and cables were very bad; the weather however happily clearing, they all arrived safe. The Colchester was ordered to Spithead; but

by

by some delay or mistake the orders for the Rippon were not delivered to Captain Roddam, by which neglect she did not arrive for three weeks after the Colchester, which got there in two days, and being found unserviceable was paid off. Peace was soon after proclaimed: upon which Captain Roddam turning his sword into a ploughshare, laid the foundation of those improvements in his own county, at Roddam; an estate which afterwards, in the year 1776, he became heir to by the death of his eldest brother, Edward Roddam, Esquire, in whose lifetime he rebuilt the present mansion-house, retaining a singular and strong attachment to the ancient possessions of his family. On a supposition of war breaking out with Spain, about the year 1770, Captain Roddam was commissioned on the 7th of December in that year, for the Lenox of 74 guns, at Portsmouth, and continued in her command three years as a guardship, being relieved the 19th of December, 1773, by Captain Matthew Moor; and at the commencement of the American war he was commissioned for the Cornwall of 74 guns, at Chatham, the 17th of March 1777, with orders to proceed to Spithead, and commanded one of the twelve ships then intended for the Mediterranean; but upon being appointed Rear-Admiral of the white, on the 29th of April, 1778, he was succeeded in the command of the Cornwall by Captain Timothy Edwards, and was ordered immediately to Chatham as commander in chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in the river Medway and of the Buoy at the Nore; and on the

19th of March, 1779, received the rank of Vice-admiral of the blue, and continuing in the same command was promoted to be Vice-admiral of the white, on the 26th of September, 1780; a Vice-admiral of the red on the 24th of September, 1787; and on the 20th of April, 1789, he was appointed commander in chief at Portsmouth, where he continued three years a most active and attentive commander. By early hours and regularity he carried every business quickly forward; and the expectation of war, with its hurrying consequences, gave him in that situation many opportunities of exerting his professional zeal. Among other instances, he received orders to get the guard-ships ready for sea, which he completed in five days, except men; and the like order being repeated for fitting out five sail more, he had them also entirely ready at Spithead in fourteen days, which he announced to the Lords of the Admiralty, with earnest offers to go with the squadron to any part of the world. This extraordinary expedition in getting men of war ready for sea so astonished the French nation, that their newspapers noticed that British ships of war sprung up complete like mushrooms. His professional services have, with a strong wish for employment, been offered upon every occasion, but he has not had an opportunity of exercising them since he struck his flag at Portsmouth in the year 1792. Upon the first of February, 1793, he was promoted to be Admiral of the blue; and on 12th of April, 1794, Admiral of the white: he is now highest on the list but one, and from the perfect possession of health, strength, activity, good spirits, and

 valour,

valour, may yet live to share some of those rewards or distinctions of his *Sovereign's respect for services*, which on every occasion he has invariably employed to the best of his ability; but he never asked for any situation that would place him above an older officer, always considering such conduct as being extremely detrimental to the service.

During the time he was in command, every gentleman then in commission could bear testimony to his activity and zealous attention both to the service and every person employed in it. His table was always ready to receive his brother officers of all descriptions, and every other person fit to be placed at it, which hospitality he now continues in the style of an ancient baron at his seat in Northumberland. No sailor's widow, or orphan ever sued to him without receiving his benevolent assistance. He has ever been the *sailor's friend*, though at the same time their steady and particularly undismayed commander; and mutinies never existed under his flag. In politics he was always a firm adherent to government, as he considered any interruption to it unjust to the conductors, whose exertions would ill proceed by stops being put to *that wheel*, which, if intercepted in its regular motion, might greatly impair, if not entirely destroy, the *whole constitution*; and this opinion he proves in his own neighbourhood, where every assistance to government is given by him both in precept and example, by subscriptions for the public good, and activity and impartiality as a magistrate, a line of

conduct which no consideration of self has with-held him from pursuing; and we are happy to observe, that although Admiral Roddam has attained an age to which the generality of mankind do not reach, yet he possesses a strength of constitution equal to the activity of his mind.

SIR RICHARD HILL, BART. M. P.

AND THE

REV. ROWLAND HILL.

SIR RICHARD HILL is the eldest son of Sir Rowland Hill, of Hampstone, in Salop, Baronet. He was educated, we believe, at Westminster school, whence he was removed to the university of Oxford, where he soon distinguished himself by the peculiarities of methodism. Whether he figured as a preacher while he was at Oxford we know not, but he has more than once displayed his zeal from the *Evangelical* pulpits; and we remember to have heard him several years ago at Truro, in Cornwall, where he preached in the meeting-house to a very crowded audience, clad in a green coat, ornamented with gold lace.

At an early period of life he was elected knight of the shire for his native county, and has invariably occupied that seat in every succeeding parliament to the present time. Sir Richard adhered firmly to Lord North during the American war; and has been equally

equally constant to Mr. Pitt and his successor.* He used to be a pretty constant speaker in the House, and the motley mixture of politics and religion which composed his harangues was wont oftentimes to excite considerable merriment. The author of "Criticisms on the Rolliad" has attempted to fix on the peculiarities of the worthy Baronet; but, like all satirists, he borders on the *extravaganza*, and in pursuit of severity outsteps the bounds of justice.

"With Bible bawdy, and with sacred smut,
"His rev'rend jokes see pious Richard cut:
"He to the wond'ring senate first reveal'd,
"That *gospel* was for joke so wide a field;
"That no resource was ever found for wit
"Half so prolific as the *holy writ*;
"And that of all the *jest books* man has known,
"The Bible's merits most distinguish'd shone."

And again,

"With wit so various, piety so odd,
"Quoting by turns from *Miller* and from GOD;
"Shall no distinction wait thy honour'd name?
"No lofty epithet transmit thy fame?
"Forbid it wit, from mirth refin'd away!
"Forbid it Scripture, which thou mak'st so gay!
"*Scipio*, we know, was *Africanus* call'd,
"*Richard* styl'd *Longshanks*—*Charles* surnam'd *the Bald*,
"Shall these for petty merits be renown'd,
"And no proud phrase, with panegyric sound,
"Swell thy short name, great *Hill?*—Here take thy due,
"And hence be call'd—The SCRIPTURAL KILLIGREW.

About the same time appeared some ingenious satires, called Probationary Odes for the Laureatship, in

* It is but fair to remark, that Sir Richard delivered an animated and independent speech respecting the late war.

 which

which different public characters were made to exhibit their poetical effusions, and among the rest Sir Richard is described as invoking the muse of methodism to assist his pious strains. It is supposed that both these wicked and waggish performances came from the same pen.

Sir Richard, when but a young convert, became a zealous champion for the religious party, to which he had attached himself. It is well known that the great leaders of methodifm, Wesley and Whitfield, adopted opposite sentiments on the extent of salvation. The former allowed that man is a free agent, and that the satisfaction of Christ was made for all men. These points were flatly denied by Whitfield and the calvinistical methodists, who made man a passive instrument till grace inspired him with divine life; and they contended that the *elect* only, or those who were predestinated from all eternity, shall be made partakers of the kingdom of heaven.

A fierce contention arose among the methodistical leaders upon these inscrutable topics, and they almost proceeded to excommunicate one another for heterodoxy. The Calvinists were by far the most violent, and the harshness of their creed inspired them with the most intolerant sentiments. Sir Richard Hill waged war against the whole host of Arminians, and published several pamphlets upon the doctrines in dispute, which exhibited considerable knowledge of the subject, and evinced no small skill in theological controversy. About the same time, the university of Oxford began to be jealous of the progress of methodism,

thodism, and finding that Edmund-hall contained some students who exercised their preaching talents before they were duly authorised, expelled them. This caused a mighty outcry among the zealots; and several pieces were published against the conduct of Dr. Howell, principal of the hall, and other heads of houses who were engaged in that affair. Among the rest Sir Richard came forward as the champion of methodism, in a tract which was written with great shrewdness and spirit, entitled "*Pietas Oxoniensis.*"

Not long after this he engaged in a paper war with Dr. Adams, rector of St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, on the following occasion. It was the custom of the late Mr. Romaine, whom the Calvinists regarded as their prophet, to spend some of the summer months in travelling, and in one of these excursions he was invited to preach at the Doctor's church. He accepted the invitation; but his sermon was so little to the vicar's taste, that he is said to have treated him rather rudely, and even to have preached against him from the same pulpit. The Doctor was soon after attacked in a printed letter with great warmth by the author of *Pietas Oxoniensis,* and the controversy we believe was continued for some time with no little heat on both sides.

But Mr. John Wesley, and a very pious minister in connexion with that extraordinary man, the Rev. Mr. John Fletcher, vicar of Madely, were the principal antagonists of Sir Richard. The whole field of controversy between Calvinism and Arminianism was traversed over and over again by these adroit pole-

mics;

mics; but there was one gentleman who had a manifest advantage over all the rest, and that was Mr. Augustus Toplady. He possessed a considerable degree of learning, a great command of language, an extent of reading, and such a competency of metaphysics and logic, as enabled him to give to Calvinism an attracting appearance. When that gentleman died, it seems the Wesleyan methodists propagated some scandalous stories concerning the manner of his departure, as that he had recanted his opinions, and expired distracted. In confutation of this slanderous reproach, Sir Richard printed a ſmall pamphlet, which abundantly vindicated the consistent integrity of his departed friend, and did honour to his own feelings.

Since that time he has published a few other pieces, some practical and others controversial. The chief of his works, however, is "An Apology for Brotherly Love, and for the Doctrines of the Church of England, in Letters to the Rev. Charles Daubeny; with a Vindication of such parts of Mr. Wilberforce's Practical View as have been objected to by Mr. Daubeny in his Guide to the Church." 8vo. 1798. In this work Sir Richard evinces greater moderation than in his former pieces; and it must be admitted that, so far as the faith of the church of England is concerned, he encounters his adversary to great advantage.

We here close our view of the Baronet as a writer, to notice him as a divine; for be it known, that with all his zeal for the church of England, he actually officiates as a preacher, or an exhorter, in a chapel at his beautiful seat in Shropshire. Whether this be

quite

quite consistent with an attachment to the established church is a point which we shall not here discuss, but it does not appear to be strictly agreeable to her canons. It may, however, be considered at the most as a harmless act of disobedience, and while it is confined to the small circle of his own family and friends, is not likely to do much mischief.

The Baronet at the last general election is said to have been so intent upon bringing in a near relation for the town of Shrewsbury, as to spend many thousand pounds upon the contest, in which he had the mortification, however, to be defeated. This electioneering warfare was carried on with all that fury and intemperance which usually disgraces those contentions. This gave considerable disgust to Sir Richard's friends, who thought that the money so disposed of might have been much better laid out in building meeting-houses, and in supporting missionaries; for it seems to be the general spirit of the sect, that this sort of charity and benevolence is infinitely preferable to that which provides for the bodily distresses of mankind. It must, however, be mentioned to the honour of the worthy Baronet, that he has never been backward in contributing his aid to the wants of his fellow-creatures. His charities are well known to have been very extensive and substantial, and what is still better, they have been administered in the true spirit of the gospel—with tenderness and secrecy.

Sir Richard has laid out his paternal estate with great taste, and Hawkstone is at present one of the finest

finest ornaments of the county. He has never been married, and at his time of life it is not to be supposed that he will change his condition.

The Rev. ROWLAND HILL is the brother of the Baronet, and received his education at Eton school, a seminary where one should least expect that a scholar would imitate the rigorous and gloomy doctrines of Calvinism. This, however, he did, and shewed a strong predilection for the eccentricities of methodism; which gave great offence to his father, who entertained an idea, that as his ſon was designed for the church, he would attain to the highest distinctions in his profession.

From Eton he removed to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he proceeded, with some reputation, to his degree of master of arts. The effervescence of his zeal was however so strong, that he could not content himſelf within the limits prescribed by the church for the exercise of the Christian ministry; but before he was of proper age to enter into orders, he began to figure as a preacher among the methodists, especially at the Tabernacle and at Tottenham-court chapel in London. Some of his friends, however, were rather displeased with his precipitancy, especially Mr. Toplady, who, though he had the greatest affection for him, was zealous for conformity to the rules of the establishment. After this it was with great difficulty that Mr. Hill could procure either a title to orders, or the consent of a Bishop to ordain him. At last the Bishop of Bath and Wells admitted

him

him into the church on a curacy in his diocese; but whether he ever proceeded further than to deacon's orders is uncertain. He did not long continue stationary; for, in imitation of his great example Whitfield, he began to shew off his talents and his zeal in barns, in meeting-houses, and in streets. His fame was soon spread far and wide; for though he never possessed the oratorical powers of his prototype, he had youth, warmth, pleasantness, and high connections to recommend him. The son of a baronet gave consequence to methodism, and he was looked upon as another Elisha succeeding to the mantle of the Elijah of the party, George Whitfield. When the controversy raged so furiously between the Calvinistic and Arminian methodists, Mr. Hill printed some very violent pamphlets against Mr. Wesley, whom he by no means treated with the respect due to his profession and his years. Indeed, as a controvertist, our divine falls far short of his brother the baronet, both in skill and temper.

On the death of Mr. Toplady, who had, with much commendable modesty, forbidden any funeral discourse to be preached at his interment, Mr. Hill was guilty of a pious fraud, which every liberal man will readily excuse; he delivered an oration instead of a sermon, in which he pronounced a warm eulogium on his departed friend.

In 1783 he laid the foundation of a large chapel, in Blackfriars-road, which was opened in the course of the following year. This structure is of an octagonal form, and though very spacious is constantly crowded.

crowded. Mr. Hill regularly officiates at this chapel when in London; but he spends a considerable part of the summer in travelling, particularly into Scotland, as an itinerant missionary.

Mr Hill is by no means a strait-laced son of the establishment; for he as readily preaches in a conventicle as in a church, and his own pulpit is open to men of all sects, episcopalians, presbyterians, independents, and baptists, ordained and unordained. Yet in his, as in most of the calvinistical chapels belonging to the methodists, the church liturgy is read on Sundays; but we are informed on the best authority that the readers are not in orders.

The character of Mr. Hill stands justly high in the estimation of his party, and we believe that he is sincere in his professions, and disinterested in his labours. Many curious anecdotes are told of his pulpit eloquence; for his sermons are, and we speak from personal knowledge, a strange medley of incongruities. In the midst of a solemn exhortation, and some vehement denunciation against sinners, it is no unusual thing for him to introduce a whimsical story, which tends to discompose the muscles of the gravest old woman in the congregation. It must be allowed, however, that Mr. Hill possesses a *knack* of relating an anecdote, and that in general he introduces his tales with tolerable effect. But at times his love of a joke carries him to the very verge of decorum, as was once the case at St. John's church, in Wapping, where he was engaged to preach a charity sermon. Observing that his auditory was very large, and made

up

up in general of seafaring persons who are not celebrated for overmuch religion, he exclaimed, that he was come to preach to great sinners, notorious sinners, profane sinners, aye, said he, with peculiar emphasis, and "WAPPING SINNERS." This climax operated like an electric shock through all the congregation, and highly offended the inhabitants of that *polite* part of the town, who conceived themselves materially insulted by such a debasement of their place of abode.

In common conversation Mr. Hill is exceedingly enlivening, and has no feature of the fanatic. He abounds with pleasant stories, and is very happy at a repartee. In disposition he is liberal, and his charities are large. Those benevolent institutions, the soup societies, owe their origin and establishment to his philanthropy, and to his honour we speak, his bountiful exertions are not confined within the pale of a particular sect.

Two instances of his generosity, as being well authenticated, we shall readily insert in this sketch. Being called upon one evening to visit a sick man, he found a poor emaciated creature in a wretched bed, without any thing to comfort him in his miserable condition. Looking more narrowly, he observed that the man was actually without a shirt, on which he instantly stripped himself, and forced his own upon the reluctant, surprized, and grateful object; then buttoning himself up close he hastened homewards, sent all things that were necessary for the destitute being, provided medical aid, and had the satisfaction of restoring a fellow-creature to his family, and of placing

placing him in a situation to provide for their support.

The other anecdote is still more remarkable. As he was once travelling alone, he was accosted by a footpad, who, by the agitation of his voice and manner, appeared to be raw in his profession. After delivering to the man his money and watch, curiosity prompted him to put a question or two to him upon the motives which urged him to so desperate a course. The man candidly confessed, that being out of employment, with a wife and children who were perishing for want, despair had forced him to turn robber, but that this was the first act he had been engaged in. Mr. Hill communicated his name and address, and told him if he would call upon him the next day he would see what could be done for him. The man came, and was taken into the service of our divine, with whom he continued until his death. This adventure, it is said, Mr. Hill related himself in the funeral sermon which he delivered on the death of his domestic. Respecting such circumstances no comment is necessary; they speak for themselves, and will have a powerful effect upon every feeling heart.

Mr. Rowland Hill has published several single sermons and pious tracts, none of which merit notice except the "Journal of a Tour through the North of England and parts of Scotland, in 1798." 8vo. This performance is very entertaining, and contains some curious descriptions of places, persons, and manners. But the freedom with which the author treated the Scotch church gave great offence to the presbyterian clergy,

clergy, and procured the honour of an answer from Dr. Jamieson, a respectable divine of that establishment.

Mr. Hill married Miss Mary Tudway, of Somersetshire, by whom he has no issue.

He has a brother in orders, the Rev. Brian Hill, A. M. who is settled in Derbyshire, and performs the duties of a regular parish-priest with distinguished credit. He is the author of some poems of merit, particularly one entitled "Eugenius and Acasto."

DR. JOHN LAW,

BISHOP OF ELPHIN.

IT has often been observed, that where nature has bestowed great powers, the love of fame burns with a proportionate ardour, and that the exertions of men of genius are called forth and rewarded by the admiration which they naturally excite. The observation has been made and received with greater confidence, because the characters which confirm it are by their nature prominent and press themselves on our regard, while those which contradict it delight to retire from public view, and do not enter with their proper weight into our considerations. But an attentive survey of life will discover many who, though distinguished by their powers and attainments, do not seek for happiness in the applause of mankind, but preferring a calm repose to turbulent enjoyments, decline the honours which are placed within their reach. To the num-

ber of these is to be added the subject of the following memoir.

Dr. John Law, Bishop of Elphin, was born at Greystoke, in Cumberland, in 1745. His father, Dr. Edmund Law, the late Bishop of Carlisle, was at that time rector of Greystoke, to which he had been presented by the university of Cambridge, in 1737. In 1743 he was created Archdeacon of Carlisle, and in 1746 removed to Salkeld, another village in Cumberland, of which the rectory is annexed to the archdeaconry, where the early years of the Bishop of Elphin were spent.

In this retirement it is probable that Dr. Law bestowed a considerable part of his time on the education of his children. The Bishop of Elphin was sent at an early age to the Charter-house, and we may conclude that he went very well prepared by the instructions of his father. From the Charter-house, where he enjoyed the benefit of the foundation, he removed to Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1762. At school he was greatly distinguished by the elegance both of his prose and poetical compositions. The early productions of great men have an interest which is independent of their merit; but the loss of some pieces which the Bishop of Elphin wrote when very young is lamented by his friends, with a warmth of regret which only uncommon excellence could have excited.

At Cambridge he found that those who directed the pursuits of the place gave a decided preference to the mathematical sciences: they of course became, from

from this reason, the principal subjects of his studies, and he afterwards pursued them with additional ardour, from the pleasure which they afforded him. The advances which he made while an under-graduate in the knowledge of fluxions, and the other higher parts of analytics, were very uncommon. At the senate-house examination, after a severe contest, Mr. Arnald, of St. John's, was placed first on the list of wranglers, and the Bishop of Elphin the second; it being declared that Mr. Arnald's place was in some measure owing to his having read without a private tutor, while the Bishop of Elphin had been assisted by the late Judge Wilson, one of the ablest men in the university: an arrangement with which, and with its reason, the Bishop of Elphin was very much discontented.

After he had taken his bachelor's degree, he was a candidate for one of the Chancellor's medals, which are adjudged annually to the best proficients in classical learning, who have not ranked lower in the tripos than senior-optimes.* These medals, it is supposed, were never more powerfully contested than in this year. Dr. Law obtained the first. It is understood that he obtained it decisively, and that the abilities of his antagonists added to the honour, but not to the danger of his victory.

Mr. Arnald was the senior wrangler of his year, was a man of great powers, and though inferior in mathematical genius to Dr. Law, had used such ex-

* See Dr. Milner's account of his brother, who was the second medallist of the year.

 ertions,

ertions, and bent them with that singleness to the point of the senate-house examination, as to be fully entitled to the situation which he attained. His conceptions were in an uncommon degree quick and clear, and his memory made whatever he had once acquired always his own. Though not gifted with the powers which can extend the bounds of mathematics, he possessed that taste which perceives the beauty of the science, and can improve the inventions of others: a copiousness and elegance of expression, a peculiar felicity in illustrating and explaining, rendered him an admirable lecturer. From the moment of his commencing bachelor of arts, when merely permitted the undisturbed exertion of his abilities, he allowed his mother, the widow of a clergyman, 200l. per annum. He soon became fellow and tutor of St. John's College. When the establishment for the education of the Prince of Wales was formed, he was appointed sub-tutor to his Royal Highness. This situation placed in his prospect the greatest preferments of the church, which he already grasped with the most lively ambition. A canonry of Windsor was scarcely bestowed on him, when all his hopes were crushed by the heaviest calamity incident to humanity, the loss of reason. He has now languished many years in a state too dreadful for description, and nothing is left to his friends but to wish that death may put a speedy termination to his sufferings.

The exertions of Dr. Law were rewarded by his college with the first fellowship which they could give him, and the reputation which he had established

made it convenient for Dr. Shephard, at that time tutor of Christ's, to offer him a share of the tuition. He had Dr. Paley, the celebrated author of the "Moral and Political Philosophy," for his associate, who though three years his senior in the university, was nearly his cotemporary as a fellow of the college. The lectures were entirely divided between Dr. Paley and Dr. Law, Dr. Shepherd and his assistants being content that he should confine himself to managing the accounts. The higher branches of the mathematics, classics, and metaphysics were taught by Dr. Law, while Dr. Paley lectured on the principles of moral and political philosophy, the Greek Testament, and those branches of the mathematics which were read by the junior part of the under-graduates.

The union of such great abilities in the tutors quickly elevated the college to an unprecedented height of reputation. Every college is in some degree supported by its connections, which people it with a succession of members; but Christ's College, while it flourished under Dr. Paley and Dr. Law, was crowded by students, who had no other attraction than the advantages which might be expected from the lectures of such celebrated teachers. Since he left the university, Dr. Law has risen through a series of promotions to his present elevated station; but it may be reasonably presumed that the happiest years of his life were those which he passed in his college. His under-gratuateship was indeed spent in severe exertions; but it must be remembered that the exertions of study are attended by an oblivion of all other cares, and

and that his labours were animated by a flattering prospect of those brilliant honours with which they were rewarded. While tutor he enjoyed the just and solid satisfaction which results from the consciousness of being eminently useful, and from the persuasion of being esteemed so. The pleasures of literary society, so valuable to a literary man, Cambridge furnished to him in the highest perfection. In Dr. Paley, a name familiar to every scholar, he found a friend, with whom a similarity of genius, an union of interest and labours, connected him by the closest and most pleasing ties. With Dr. Waring, Dr. John Jebb, and many other celebrated characters, who were his cotemporaries in the university, he was united in the most intimate friendship; and when we are enumerating the sources of happiness which the university afforded him, we ought not to omit the residence of his family, which removed to Cambridge on the appointment of his father to the mastership of Peterhouse, in 1756.

The intimacy of the Bishop of Elphin with Dr. Waring arose from some very important services rendered by his father to that celebrated mathematician, in his canvas for the Lucasian professorship. A very strong interest was made in favour of another candidate, whom the master of Peter-house resolutely opposed, and it is understood that his support was a very necessary addition to the mathematical reputation of Dr. Waring, which alone should have secured to him the professorship. The intimacy, begun from a connection produced by this circumstance, was rendered

closer

closer by their common fondness for analytical speculations, in which Dr. Law was deeply skilled, and in which Dr. Waring is allowed to have excelled all mankind. His work entitled "*Proprietates Curvarum Algebraicarum*," is dedicated to the Bishop of Carlisle, "*pro summo suo in conferendo professorio munere suffragii patrociniique beneficio proque illâ qua diu usus est opt mi filii ope et amicitiâ, gratitudinis ergo*"—" as a "token of his gratitude for the very great benefit of "his suffrage and patronage when the author obtain- "ed the situation of professor, and for the assistance "which he had often derived from his excellent son, "and the friendship with which he had been long "honoured by him."

The Bishop of Elphin was induced, by his admiration of genius, to cultivate the acquaintance of the well known Israel Lyons, who, though not a member of the university, was resident in Cambridge. They who were personally acquainted with that wonderful man are impressed with a higher opinion of him than those who know him only from his works; and no one was more able to estimate his powers, or is more inclined to acknowledge their extent, than the Bishop of Elphin. Israel Lyons was born of Jewish parents, and discovered when very young an extraordinary passion and capacity for mathematical studies. This introduced him to Dr. Smith, the late master of Trinity, who was himself an eminent mathematician. It is said that Dr. Smith, wishing to increase his opportunities of reading, offered him a lay-fellowship of Trinity, on condition that he would embrace Chris-

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tianity; and that the offer was rejected rather from national and family motives, than from the strength of his religious attachments. In 1759 he published a system of fluxions, which placed him in the rank of the first mathematicians of the age, and which all the subsequent improvements and treatises have not deprived of its popularity. The studies of Mr. Lyons were not confined to mathematics: he was a botanist, and his knowledge of botany, on which he wrote, would alone have distinguished his name. For his support he taught mathematics to pupils in the university, whom his reputation easily procured him. At that time the disputations in the schools were elevated into consequence by the exertions of the present Bishop of Llandaff and the late Dr. Jebb, and Mr. Lyons was celebrated for supplying to his pupils the most ingenious arguments that were produced on these occasions: his objections were sometimes of a serious nature, but in general they were necessarily cavils; and it is to be lamented that so great a genius should ever have been condemned to the frivolous employment of raising difficulties which had no real existence. His lectures afforded him an adequate support; he was patronized by the first characters in the university, and his comforts and respectability might have been continued, had he not become the slave of a fatal intemperance. He became an habitual drunkard, and all the usual degrading effects of drunkenness soon appeared in his character. Other miseries besides those attending the loss of reputation began to press upon him: his pupils fell off, for he

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used entirely to neglect those who did not supply him with wine during his attendance. When the voyage to the north pole, under Captain Phipps, in 1773, was planned, Mr. Lyons was recommended as a proper person to superintend the mathematical objects of the voyage. A most remarkable circumstance was the consequence of this voyage. The novelty or pleasure of the engagement, or the separation from his former connections, effected a happy and total revolution in his habits, and he was no longer a drunkard. He did not when he returned to England relapse, but appeared restored to himself and his studies: whatever might have been now expected from him was defeated by his death, which happened, very much regretted by the lovers of science, soon after his return, in 1775.

The same motives which induced the Bishop of Elphin to seek the acquaintance of Lyons, led him to introduce himself by a visit to the celebrated Emerson. This extraordinary man, equally famous for his mathematical abilities and his eccentricities, spent his time between the duties of a laborious farmer and the studies of a profound mathematician: he was found by the Bishop of Elphin in the dress of the peasantry of the country, seated on the top of his house, and employed in roofing it.

In 1773, after a residence of eleven years, the Bishop of Elphin left the university. His father, Dr. Edmund Law, had, in 1768, been promoted to the bishopric of Carlisle, and in 1773 he presented his son to the living of Warkworth, in Northumberland, and to a stall in the cathedral at Carlisle. Dr. Edmund

Law

Law was indebted for his elevation to the bench, to the Duke of Grafton, whom in his election to the chancellorship of the university he had supported with all his influence. No member of the university ever had greater weight in it than the late Bishop of Carlisle seems to have possessed, and yet he is described by his biographer, Dr. Paley, "as a man of a studious and retired character, whose life was a life of incessant reading and thought." This can only be a just delineation of what he was in the repose of age and satisfied ambition. It appears that, in 1737, when not of considerable standing, he was presented by the university of Cambridge to a valuable living; and any one who has attended to the affairs of the world, will feel the improbability of a silent and unambitious scholar being preferred by a numerous body of patrons, each of whom might have opposed him as a candidate. In a contest for the high-stewardship of the university, his services induced the Duke of Newcastle to exert his influence in procuring him a stall in the cathedral of Durham. The services must have been considerable which were thought worthy of so great a reward. The Duke of Grafton never affected the character of a patron of literature, we cannot therefore attribute the promotion of Dr. Law to his regard for the learning of that distinguished prelate, which rendered him so worthy of his elevation, but must ascribe it to the powerful support which he had lent to his Grace. Those who are acquainted with the university will allow, that no station, no learning, no respectability, unless united with activity and intrigue,

trigue, could establish an interest which should appear so important in the eyes of those noblemen, who estimated its magnitude from their own experience of its effects.

After he had left college, Dr. Law resided in Carlisle. He married a lady of that place, who was sister to Mr. Wallace, the celebrated counsel. In the year 1777 he was made archdeacon of the diocese. Among those with whom he was acquainted, and from whom he received occasional visits at Carlisle, appears to have been Mr. Boswell, who in a letter to Dr. Johnson, dated Carlisle, says, "I found "Mr. Law the archdeacon, son of the Bishop, with "whom I breakfasted and dined very agreeably; I "got acquainted with him here at the assizes, about "a year and a half ago: he is a man of great variety "of knowledge, uncommon genius, and, I believe, "sincere religion."

It is said that the Bishop of Elphin, while nominally archdeacon, was in effect the Bishop of Carlisle. The age, the infirmities, and the consequent inactivity of his father, his general absence from the diocese, where he spent only three months of the year, conspired to throw the management of all affairs into those hands, into which they could devolve with the greatest propriety and confidence. The patronage of the bishopric is not very considerable, but he united with it latterly the disposal of a great part of the preferments which are in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle. He was himself a member of the chapter, his connections were gradually introduced into

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it, and his interest was strengthened by the influence which he derived from his father. Power and patronage have a natural tendency to produce their own growth, for support is willingly lent to those who are already strong, and who can hold out the expectation of returning more than is given.

The first object of the Bishop of Elphin was to provide for Dr. Paley. In 1776 he was presented to the living of Dalston, in Cumberland, and not long afterwards to that of Appleby, in Westmoreland, one of the best rectories in the gift of the Bishop of Carlisle. This he exchanged for a prebend in the cathedral at Carlisle, in 1780. Dr. Paley, in his present exaltation, will not be unwilling to confess the Bishop of Elphin the author of his fortune, as some of the great preferments he now holds were bestowed on him, partly because he was able to resign those which he previously owed to the zealous kindness of his friend.

The circumstances by which Dr. Law was elevated to a bishopric were entirely unexpected. In the famous trial between Sir James Lowther and the Duke of Portland, in 1767, (so famous as to be a leading feature of the history of the time, and the foundation of an act of parliament) concerning a very extensive property which Sir James wished to wrest from his Grace by a grant of the crown, the Duke of Portland found it necessary, in order to establish his claims, to examine a number of ancient manuscripts. Some which were imagined to be of great importance, not all the skill of those employed by his Grace could decypher. An enquiry was therefore made to

discover

discover a person whose knowledge of old writing should be able to overcome the difficulties with which they were perplexed; and a clergyman, a native of Cumberland, in the station of a curate, was found, who possessed the necessary qualifications. That the event of the trial was favourable to the Duke of Portland is well known: that the exertions of this gentleman in some measure contributed to it is probable, since the Duke thought himself placed by them under great obligations, and undertook effectually to provide for him, if ever it should be in his power.

When Lord North's administration was overthrown in 1782, and the party of which the Duke of Portland was a leading member, divided among them the offices of the state, that nobleman obtained the Lord-lieutenancy of Ireland. Soon after his appointment the bishopric of Clonfert became at his disposal, and by means of this bishopric he determined to provide for the gentleman already mentioned. Some circumstances rendered it improper to advance him to the exalted station which was vacant, and therefore a clergyman was sought for whose character should *possess sufficient dignity*, and who should be able to resign preferments which were valuable, and to which no uncommon responsibility or publicity was attached. Every desirable circumstance centered in Dr. Law, and accordingly, in 1782, he was promoted to the bishopric of Clonfert, and all his preferments, except the archdeaconry, were bestowed by the Bishop of Carlisle on the person recommended by the Duke of Portland. The archdeaconry was given to Dr. Paley.

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As this exchange was very highly in Dr. Law's favour, in point of rank, income, and of every thing except country, and as it is not understood that he had any personal connection with the Duke of Portland, it is probable that he did not expect further promotion from his Grace. It is said that some promises were received by the gentleman we have alluded to, which were not executed, because the preferments to which they referred did not become vacant; but these might be made from a sense of what Dr. Law already enjoyed, and not from the prospect of future obligations. Whatever might have been the intentions of the Lord-lieutenant, they were rendered unavailing by the short date of his power, of which a few months saw the beginning and the end.

Dr. Law carried with him to Ireland, as his secretary and steward, Mr. John Howard, a name not unknown to mathematicians. Some circumstances had recommended this eminent genius, when a young man and in a low situation, to the notice of Dr. Law, who, with his usual ardour in the cause of science, delivered him from a mechanical employment, supplied him with opportunities of reading, and even assisted him personally in his studies. Among his qualifications, that of superintending with care the œconomy of a family was not found to be one. After a short stay in Ireland he left the Bishop of Clonfert, and established a school in Carlisle, in which he taught mathematics to those of his pupils who were able to receive his instructions. The inattention with which a man of genius must always execute the painful task

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of informing the minds of children, neither capable or desirous of obtaining knowledge, did not prevent his school from flourishing. In the midst of his avocations, in the midst of the lowest debauchery, he was continually adding to his mathematical acquisitions. After residing in Carlisle a few years, he began to wish for a wider scene than it afforded him, and determined to remove to Newcastle-upon-Tyne. In that place he taught a school, which his reputation filled with scholars. In 1798 he published a treatise on spherical geometry. This work diffused among the readers of mathematics the high opinion of the author which had always been entertained by his friends. The work in the dedication is presented to the Bishop of Elphin, "as a humble specimen of the produce of that "tree, which if it had produced any thing good, owed "all to his generous and disinterested culture." In the preface he complains that "the book had been "brought to its present state amidst inconvenience "and distraction, in sickness and in sorrow; that it "had its origin in a vain endeavour to amuse the "mind under a violent and lengthened pressure of "bodily pain; and that it had been interrupted in its "progress by a concatenation of private ills, such as "is not commonly the lot of humanity." This state of his health must be regretted by the admirers of his genius, as it undoubtedly interfered with his exertions, and his sufferings would have deserved our pity, had they not been the inevitable consequences of his vices. His constitution had fallen a victim, and he died in less than a year after the publication of his

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work. Mr. Howard was not a mere mathematician, he had a taste for elegant literature, he relished the beauties of poetry, and composed verses which neither advanced nor injured his reputation. He was the life of the riotous parties, in which he consumed his health and time; no man ever excelled him in what is distinguished by the name of "low humour:" his anecdotes were so amusing, his images so ludicrous and so happily combined, his manner so irresistible, that his coarseness could not prevent him from being entertaining to the most polished hearer. It was a very remarkable trait of his character, that slavery to the passions was not in him attended by prodigality when pleasure was concerned; though he could not resist his passions, he scrupled not to practise any meanness which should render the indulgence of them as little expensive as possible. The effects of his œconomy appeared in leaving the sum of money which astonished those who knew the opportunities he had of accumulating it. The character of a writer must be determined by his works; but we are to estimate his abilities by weighing together with his works the circumstances under which they were produced. If we consider that Mr. Howard was almost to the age of manhood without the opportunities of improvement; that, excepting a few years, he was condemned during the remainder of a short life to a laborious employment; if we add his daily intemperance, which if it did not affect his faculties, at least impeded the exercise of them, we must conclude that only very uncommon powers could elevate him to that height

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of knowledge which his writings prove that he attained.

Dr. Paley, in the preface to his book on the "Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy," enumerates among his motives for making it public, the "recommendation of an honoured and excellent "friend." In this expression he alludes to Dr. Law. Such an acknowledgment must intitle him to the gratitude of the world; but there is a high degree of probability that its obligations are increased by his having contributed some of those admirable chapters, which shine out amidst the excellence with which they are surrounded, and form the principal ornaments of the book. Thus far is certain, that all who are conversant with its history, entertain the persuasion that some parts of it proceeded from the pen of Dr. Law. Mr. Howard, the person whose character has just been delineated, used to declare, that he copied a manuscript of Dr. Law which appears in the work. The chapter on "Reverencing the Deity", in the second volume, has generally been ascribed to him. The critical reader will observe in it a copiousness and magnificence of expression, which distinguish it from the rest of the work, of which an almost naked simplicity of style is a striking characteristic. The imagination is addressed; the arguments are clothed with all the ornaments of language; and when contrasted with those which stand marshalled in the clear and powerful, yet unadorned reasoning of Dr. Paley, they appear both fortified and encumbered with their armour. A marked and happy deviation from Dr.

Paley's general manner is obvious in the following passage:

"Serious arguments are fair on all sides. Christianity is but "ill defended by refusing audience and toleration to the objections "of unbelievers. But whilst we would have freedom of enquiry "restrained by no other laws but those of decency, we are entitled "to demand, in behalf of a religion which holds forth to man-"kind assurances of immortality, that its credit be assailed by no "other weapons than those of sober discussion and legitimate rea-"soning; that the truth or falshood of Christianity never be made "the topic of raillery, a theme for the exercise of wit or eloquence, "or a subject of contention for literary fame and victory; that the "cause be tried on its merits; that all applications to the fancy, "passions or prejudices of the reader, all attempts to pre-occupy, "ensnare or perplex his judgment, by any art, influence, or im-"pression whatsoever, extrinsic to the proper grounds and evi-"dence on which his assent ought to proceed, be rejected from a "question which involves in its determination the hopes, the "virtue, and the repose of millions; that the controversy be "managed with sincerity on both sides," &c.

Before we assign to Dr. Law a chapter which ranks so high among the rest, we ought to listen to an objection which may be made to the argument we have been using; that no judgment ought to be formed of it from its style, which might either naturally have risen with the subject, or have been purposely accommodated to it; that there is no reason why a writer, who on common subjects uses plain and perspicuous language, should not, when employed on those of the highest interest and importance, add dignity to his expressions, and endeavour by the weight and grandeur of his manner to affect the mind of the reader with the seriousness which they require; and it must be conceded to the ob-

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jection, that the judgment ought not to rest on an argument of this nature, unless strengthened by other presumptions. What other chapters of the "Moral and Political Philosophy," in addition to that "On Reverencing the Deity," are to be attributed to Dr. Law, the writer of this article will not venture to determine; but if much more were to be detracted from that great work than the contributions of his friend, the reputation of Dr. Paley would not be injured. The plan, the spirit, the steady light of reason which shines through every part of it, would still be his: he would still retain undiminished the glory of being the first who brought philosophy out of the schools to dwell in the world, and of rendering truths in which all are interested, accessible to all.

Dr. Law has been promoted from the bishopric of Clonfert successively to the bishoprics of Killale and Elphin. In the memorable year 1798, he was not driven by the dangers which menaced him from the post at which duty placed him: he enrolled a troop for the defence of his seat, of which his archdeacon had the command, and remained in the country during the whole of that dreadful summer, prepared to repel force by force: he discovered that some of his soldiers were united Irishmen, and by dismissing them from his service narrowly escaped their treachery.

Concerning the Bishop of Elphin's literary character it is impossible to add much to what has been already said, as there is nothing before the world which avowedly proceeded from him, and as these writings

which may with some degree of certainty be attributed to him, are not of sufficient length to determine a character. He has always been understood to cultivate the mathematical sciences with particular fondneſs. His preference may be adduced as an argument in proof of the excellence and attractions of those sciences, since he unites with his mathematical skill an exquisite relish of the beauties of polite literature, an intimate acquaintance with the works of the most celebrated writers on metaphysics, and extensive acquisitions in all the branches of general knowledge.

DR. GEORGE HILL,

PRINCIPAL OF ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, ST. ANDREWS.

UPON observing the wide field of human nature which lies before him, the biographer finds those characters which chiefly present themselves to his pen, branching out into two classes. The one class consists of those who, by some peculiarities of genius, habits, acquirements, or adventures, seize upon the attention of mankind, and while they amuse by their novelty, also instruct by the lessons of action, in a peculiar combination of circumstances, which they afford. The other class comprehends those, who may indeed have nothing uncommon or instructive in their private characters, but who also attract our notice by the situation in which they are placed, by their connection with the history of the age in which they live,

live, and by the transactions on the public theatre of life in which they are seen to bear a part. The former class may introduce us more intimately into the mysteries of the human heart; but it is in the memoirs of the latter that we are to look for the state of society, and the history of the age and nation in which they live. Both classes afford materials which may be rendered instructive and entertaining, the one to individual, the other to general biography.

Among the latter class we may include the present subject of these memoirs; for in the retired scene of a college, and the tranquil labours of the closet, there is little room for the display of individual character, however great the abilities of the agent, and however important the effects of their literary exertion on the age in which he lives.

Dr. George Hill was born at St. Andrews, two years after the conclusion of the last rebellion in Scotland. His father, one of the ministers of St. Andrews, died early, leaving George and several other children to the care of a mother, whose exertions, in the midst of poverty and the depressions of widowhood, to give them a proper education, deserve to be recorded.

During the course of his academic education, Dr. Hill was chiefly distinguiſhed for that assiduous and unwearied application, which is seldom indeed accompanied by much vivacity or brilliancy of talents, but which often produces more important effects than those more dazzling qualities. Habits of persevering application are peculiarly requisite in a college, (at least so constituted as most of our colleges are) where

an easy independency without exertion, and a monotonous routine of employments, are apt to lull the busy principles of our nature asleep, and to make passion and ambition equally willing to recline in indolent repose. In these circumstances, Dr. Hill's persevering industry deserves particular commendation; and if his subsequent rank in life is rather to be attributed to this cause, than to the ascendancy of original genius, we ought to efteem his reputation as more peculiarly his own.

After passing through his academical course, he was soon appointed to the professorship of Greek in St. Salvador's College at St. Andrews. In this situation he distinguished himself by his successful endeavours to promote the study of the Greek language. In Scotland the attention of students is usually directed much more to the writers of Rome than of Greece. This national tendency appears to have arisen with those, who first promoted the renewal of ancient literature in that quarter of the island, and who were chiefly versed in Roman literature. Many Scotsmen early distinguished themselves by the elegance of their compositions, and Buchannan even rivalled the Augustan age. Proud of the national fame derived from these writers, their countrymen have universally become addicted to the Latin language; it is taught even in the meanest parochial schools, and there are few principal mechanics or farmers who have not zealously laboured at Eutropius, and even dipped into Cæsar. The Greek language indeed is taught in few of the principal schools, and there is a professor,

fessor appropriated to it in each of the universities; but it is in general considered as the mere appendage of a clergyman's education; and even in that body, Fielding would have found few originals for his Parson Adams.

Dr. Hill's exertions, on his appointment to the Greek professorship at St. Andrews, had a great effect in promoting the cultivation of that language among the students of the university. He introduced into his class the method of studying it radically instead of that mere explanation and superficial analysis which is usually required. As an appendix to Dunlop's grammar, the one used in that university, he published a variety of philological and critical observations exceedingly useful to the Greek student.

The reputation which he acquired in this department, and that talent of availing himself of circumstances for which he has always been remarkable, soon raised him to a more conspicuous situation. On the first vacancy, he was appointed first minister of the collegiate church of St. Andrews; and on the death of Dr. Gillespie in 1792, he became principal of St. Mary's College. From this period we are to date the commencement of his public career, and his great influence in the church of Scotland, as well as the complete control which he has since maintained in the university of St Andrews.

It will not be thought foreign to the present subject to give the reader some idea of that university at the head of which Dr. Hill was now placed. It is not intended to recount those forms and rules, many of

of them obsolete, which were appointed by its original founders: it is only meant to select a few of the most striking facts and observations, which may tend to give the public a correct idea of the present state of that university; and surely such an account cannot be wholly unentertaining nor uninstructive, in an age when the public attention is so much directed to the subject of education.

The university of St. Andrews, the most ancient in Scotland, formerly consisted of three distinct colleges; St. Salvador's, St. Leonard's, and St. Mary's. The two former were appropriated to the languages, polite literature, and the various branches of philosophy; the latter was dedicated solely to the study of theology, church history, and Hebrew. The smallness of the professors' salaries in the two former, and the similarity of the branches taught in both, suggested the idea of uniting them into one; and this arrangement having been carried into execution towards the middle of last century, the old edifice of St. Leonard's College has since that time been deserted, and the endowments and the students transferred entirely to St. Salvador's.

As St. Mary's College is entirely set apart for completing the education of students of divinity, the other college is considered as preparatory to it; and no one is admitted a student of St. Mary's, till he has first attended four, or at least three years at St. Salvador's. At the latter, regular attendance during the whole session is required; at the former, five years of partial, are reckoned equivalent to four years of

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regular attendance, the term requisite before the student of theology can be admitted to take orders. At St. Salvador's College the several branches of Latin, Greek, rhetoric and logic, mathematics, moral philosophy, natural philosophy, and civil history, are each taught by a separate professor. There is also a professor of medicine, but his office is a sinecure. The classes for Latin, Greek, and mathematics, are each divided into two subordinate classes, one for beginners, the other for those more advanced: the professors of these classes are therefore obliged to lecture two hours, while the other professors only lecture one hour a day. The importance which the Scots attach to Latin, not only as an elegant accomplishment, but even as a necessary part of civilization, may be seen in the Latin classes being universally known in the Scotch universities by the name of the humanity classes.

The colleges, which stand at some distance from each other, consist each of a square range of buildings fitted up into a number of chambers, in which the greater proportion of the students are lodged. And here we may observe the absurdity of that mode of coercion and seclusion from society, which has been almost universally adopted in colleges, as the means of preserving virtue and insuring application. The subjection of the students to the controul of masters, in the common intercourse of life, at a period when they are capable of thinking for themselves, makes them still continue boys in mind while their bodies

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are grown up to manhood. The innate aversion of human nature to constraint, rouses every effort to evade it; and it may be doubted whether there is a college in Great Britain, or any other country, where the gates are locked at a certain hour every night, that either the porter is not bribed, or ladders of ropes and bedclothes are not prepared to scale the walls. By this means not only the effect of the imposed restraints is frustrated, but the mind of the student is also habituated to falsehood and deceit.

The idea of shutting young men up together in a sequestered building, in order to habituate them to study, is founded upon principles equally false. As the closest intercourse must necessarily subsist between all the members of the same college, there is the danger of one dissipated character, possessed of social qualities, corrupting the whole; and one idler often engages more of his companions' hours than all the branches of literature and philosophy. The diligently inclined student never fails to be annoyed by those who love fun better than musty learning; and those hours of companionship which the founder of the college perhaps imagined would be spent in learned and profitable conversation, are usually devoted to drinking clubs and gossiping parties. The truth of these observations may be seen in all colleges without exception, where the system of seclusion and coercion is practised; and the good effects of a contrary system has been demonstrated in another Scotch College, conducted on more enlightened principles.

At St. Salvador's College, another noxious institution, a system of inequality among the students, continues to exist, long after the feudal principles on which it was founded have fallen into merited contempt. The students are divided into two classes, known by the name of seconders and terners. The former pay double fees, wear gowns of finer cloth trimmed with ribband, as a mark of distinction, enjoy the front seats in the classes, sit in the front pews at church, are first questioned at the public examinations, have their names placed at the head of the college rolls, walk foremost in all processions, dine at a better provided college table, and are in every respect looked upon as superior to the terners. Such an institution is calculated to inspire principles of pride and insolence, which no wise father who values his son's virtue or happiness, would wish him to imbibe. It tends to foster a spirit of continual animosity and jealousy between the two classes of students; and those of the lower order never fail to look with a jaundiced eye on the professors, whom they will always suspect, whether justly or not, of neglecting themselves, and shewing an improper partiality to those who pay larger fees.

The college term or session at the university of St. Andrews consists of the six winter months from November to May; and the other six months from May to November form one uninterrupted vacation. It may be disputed whether these long terms and vacations universally adopted in Scotland, are more

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or less advantageous to the student, than the more frequently returning intervals of study and relaxation to be met with in the English universities. The latter system may be thought better suited to the approved principles which Æsop deduced from the well-known emblem of the bent bow. But it must be recollected that the daily relaxation of the mind, is very different from that which is extended to weeks and months. The former cannot be dispensed with even in the term dedicated to study; so that the latter is a waste of time superadded to that which necessary recreation requires. The frequent return of term and vacation is also attended with this disadvantage, that the student can never act upon a consistent plan of study for any length of time; for he is scarcely set down to his books when he is hurried away to pleasure, and the period he has to spend with his friends at home is too short to be interrupted with regular tasks. On the other hand, when the year is divided into two equal halves of term and vacation, the student has time to form and complete two distinct plans of study, each more peculiarly adapted to the season of the year, and the different circumstances in which he finds himself placed at home and at college.

The plan of education pursued in St. Salvador's College is excellent; but little can be said of it's execution. The number of useles forms with which the office of a professor was originally encumbered, has necessarily produced a dereliction of essential duties. Forms, the leading strings of infant civilization,

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become contemptible in the manhood of society, and are gradually suffered to fall into disuse; that those on whom they have been enjoined, in thus giving them up, become habituated to dereliction, and are apt to look upon the essential parts of their duty as uneasy forms that might likewise be dispensed with. Much of the proverbial somnolency and inaction of colleges may be traced to this cause.

At the conclusion of term, the students of St. Salvador's college undergo a public examination, before all the members of the university. They are examined by the professors of the several classes they have attended; and their proficiency in the several branches they have studied during the season, is thus publicly made known to the whole university. This institution is admirably calculated to produce application, as it is addressed to the principles of honour and ambition; it is to be lamented that it ever should be conducted in a superficial manner, and looked upon as mere matter of form.

The colleges of St. Salvador and St. Mary have each their respective professors and principals. The office of the principals is to preside at the meetings of the professors, to preach every sunday to the students, and in general to regulate the management of their respective colleges.

There is also another officer, called the Rector, who is chosen in common by the united students and members of both colleges. His office is to watch over the morals of both students and professors, to enforce

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the observance of the laws of the university, to take cognizance of all complaints and disputes in it, and to preside at the trial of any accused member. The Rector had originally the power of impanneling a jury, and trying the members of the university even for capital offences. His power as a censor formerly made his office highly respectable; but as discipline relaxed, this reverence gradually abated, and the Rector is now scarce heard of in the university, unless on the day of his election.

The Chancellor is the highest officer in the university. It was usual for him to bestow various premiums and marks of favour on those students who distinguished themselves by their talents and proficiency, and thus to excite among them a generous ardour and emulation. Those who attended the university while the late Lord Kinnoul was chancellor, still speak of his attention to their welfare with gratitude and enthusiasm. But the system of rewarding merit is now unfortunately almost forgotten, and the chancellor is scarcely known to the students.

As the university was originally a royal foundation, it is subject to the supreme controul of a royal visitation, composed of a certain number of commissioners appointed by the King. This tribunal has the power of revising all the acts of the university, of inspecting its accounts, of correcting any abuses in the management of its revenues, and of punishing any dereliction of duty in its members.

As principal, Dr. Hill has both ostensively and

really, for the last twelve years, been the supreme director of the university; and his talents as a preacher and a politician have at the same time made him universally known, and acquired him the greatest ascendancy in the church of Scotland.

His merits as a public speaker deserve peculiar commendation, as in this respect he has certainly surpassed most of his countrymen and contemporaries. Though several Scottish writers of sermons have, since the middle of last century, distinguished themselves by the elegance of their sentiments and the chasteness of their compositions; yet it is only of late years that the smallest attention has been paid in that country to the graces of elocution. Among a certain class of hearers, a whining cant and violent gesticulation were sufficient to ensure popularity, and were consequently adopted by all those who felt gratification in the incense of the crowd; while men of more learning and more good sense, to shew their contempt of such applause and such arts, ran into the opposite extreme, and delivered their sermons in that lifeless attitude, and with that unimpressive enunciation, which can never affect nor even gain the attention of the hearer, however excellent the matter. Any attempts at elegance of manner were equally ridiculed by both parties, as a piece of affectation totally unworthy of the clerical character. It is not to be wondered at that under such discouraging circumstances, the graces of pulpit eloquence hardly ever reared their head. Even Dr. Blair's sermons, the beauties

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of which have been universally admired both at home and abroad, were delivered in such an ungraceful and unimpressive manner as seldom to draw a full audience, and still seldomer to command their attention. If in such circumstances Dr. Hill was among the first to despise these false ideas, and to introduce a better mode of pulpit eloquence, he certainly deserves no small degree of praise. From nature he obtained an audible, distinct, and forcible voice, which he seems to have modulated with great care. His gestures are sufficiently simple and correct, and his whole manner is devout and impressive. A critic might perhaps observe that there is a sameness in his voice and attitudes, and that the whole bear too much the appearance of study; but where is that supereminent art of concealing art to be found, even among our most admired actors, who devote their lives to it's cultivation?

The superiority of Dr. Hill's eloquence to that of his contemporaries was so evident, that it soon attracted general notice. He was appointed to preach on many public occasions; and wherever he appeared in the pulpit the church never failed to be crowded. Even the common people flocked to hear him; and he was thus enabled to prove to his brethren this useful lesson, that popularity may be attained by more noble arts than the cant of hypocrisy, and the ebullitions of enthusiasm.

The great applause which attended his pulpit eloquence, induced Dr. Hill a few years ago to offer a

volume of his sermons to the public. The reception which this work met with proves, among many other examples, that the excellencies required in written and in spoken language, are of a very different kind. In written language in order to please, every thing must be distinct and perspicuous; the words must be weighed and chosen and arranged in such a manner, as, without any adventitious assistance, to convey the sentiments of the author clearly and forcibly to the reader. Spoken language, on the other hand, chiefly requires to be adapted to the peculiar manner of the orator; the sentences may be short or long, distinct or involved; to produce the intended effect, it is sufficient that they be arranged so as with the assistance of the speaker's voice, looks, and gestures, to convey his sentiments, in the manner he could wish, to his hearers. Dr. Hill either did not perceive, or did not attend to this distinction: and hence that sameness which was imputed to his gestures has also been blamed in the structure of his sentences; while those long and involved periods which his delivery easily rendered perspicuous, are now looked upon as a dead weight on the attention of the reader. Whether this censure be just or not, it is certain that this publication has nowise contributed to encrease Dr. Hill's fame. His reputation as an orator has even been obscured very unjustly, by his failing in excellencies of a very different nature.

The principal of St. Mary's College also officiates in part as professor of divinity; and in this capacity Dr. Hill has hardly rendered less service to his brethren in

in the improvement of their theological system, than he did by his example in the refinement of their pulpit eloquence. Theology, of all other sciences, is with most difficulty purified of that rubbish which is intermingled with it by ignorance and superstition. This indeed, instead of being an argument against the reverence due to religion, as some superficial sophists have imagined, is the most convincing proof of its superiority to all other objects which can occupy the human mind. It is the irresistible, the inextricable grasp with which religion seizes upon all our faculties, that prevents us from easily disengaging ourselves from those feeble adversaries that sometimes walk in her train. The dignity of religious sentiments inspires such an awe in the mind, that we are afraid to treat with freedom any other impressions, however foreign, which may have been received along with them. Hence it is, that while human reason has thoroughly sifted other sciences, and boldly purged away the chaff of the middle ages, she still approaches with a trembling hand to purify the more precious seeds of religion. In Scotland, in particular, the reverence entertained of religious opinions, as well as of every impression received along with them, is such, that any attempt to separate them has long been looked upon as a sort of sacrilege; and few have been found hardy enough publicly to deviate from the infallible standard of Calvin. In such circumstances much improvement in the system of theology could not be expected from an individual, who had early imbibed the religious ideas of his countrymen.

Dr. Hill's opinions are indeed completely calvinistical, except in this particular, that he allows the sufficiency of human reason to judge in matters of religion. Setting out with this liberal opinion, he has certainly formed a more distinct, more rational and better supported system of theology, on calvinistic principles, than has hitherto been accomplished by any professor of divinity. Those who examined that synopsis of his lectures which he published a few years ago, will readily acknowledge the truth of this assertion. His lectures are very much admired and applauded by those who have attended them. It may likewise be said, still more to his praise, that he not only points out to his students, what it is proper for them to do, but also sets them an example of what the clerical character ought to be. His assiduity in visiting the sick, in providing for the poor, and in regularly making his parochial visitations, deserves the higher commendation, as these very essential duties of a clergyman have of late years become much less universal than formerly in Scotland. The decency of his private deportment; and the correctness of his morals, add weight to his doctrines and reproofs, and are attended with consequences equally beneficial to his parishioners, and the students committed to his charge.

But it is in the political affairs of the church that Dr. Hill has acted his most conspicuous, though perhaps his least important part. His close connection with those in power, joined to a high degree of eloquence, has long placed him at the head of the court,

or (what is known in Scotland by the name of) the moderate party, who form a great majority in the General Assembly. The church of Scotland has during the last century been divided into two parties, the orthodox and the moderate. These names would seem to indicate that the one violently abets the high calvinistic doctrines; while the other soberly doubts, discusses, and is unwilling to enter with warmth into mere speculative opinions. The abettors of each party have been willing enough to countenance this idea of their distinction; but in truth it proceeds on very different grounds. The name of moderate, as may well be supposed, in the disputes of theologians, belongs as little to the one party as the other; nor is that of orthodox much better applied. Among the moderate party, indeed, are inlisted the greater proportion of those who venture to think for themselves, who think Religion appears to most advantage when found in company with her sister Philosophy, who suppose that Arminius was sometimes more clear-sighted than Calvin, and who look upon reason as a far surer guide than either. But a large porportion of this party are staunch Calvinists, at least in their public discourses. The orthodox party consists chiefly of those who not only violently maintain the doctrines of Calvin, but also affect the zeal of the early reformers, and fill their public discourses with those deep and mystical theories which never fail to please the crowd, from being quite beyond their comprehension. But there are many in this party of a very different stamp; and in general all those who dislike

dislike the measures of the court enroll themselves under its standard.

The points, however, in which these two parties essentially differ, relate chiefly to church politics and church government. The moderates are keen sticklers for the rights of patronage, for the influence of the court, for enforcing the strict execution of laws and forms, and for establishing, if possible, a sort of rank in the church; in short, they nearly coincide with what in England is known by the name of the High Church Party. Those of the orthodox side, on the other hand, endeavour to maintain that strict equality among the clergy, which is in fact the basis of the presbyterian government; they are more anxious that the doctrines than the forms of the church should be preserved; and in general they are of opinion, that the teachers of religion ought to be chosen by the people at large; and from these tenets they have usually obtained the name of the popular party. The spirit of the moderate party may be seen from two acts which they lately obtained to be passed in the General Assembly. It had been usual to admit into the church of Scotland such clergymen as had obtained orders from the presbyteries of the English dissenters. It was found, however, that many persons extremely ill qualified came in this manner to be admitted; and particularly, that almost all those who had thus obtained ordination were full of popular violence and enthusiasm. To prevent the church from suffering by such intrusion, the moderate party procured an act to be passed, by which no one could be ad-

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mitted to orders in the church of Scotland, unless he had previously studied the regular number of years at one of the universities.

The other act shews the hierarchical principles of this party. It had been usual for the ministers of the towns in which the universities lay, also to hold professorships in the colleges; but this licence extended no farther than the precincts of these towns, and no clergyman whose living lay beyond them, however small their distance, was allowed to hold a professorship. This regulation was originally introduced to prevent that plurality of distant charges, where the performance of one duty necessarily produces the neglect of another. About three years ago, however, a professor of St. Mary's College, at St. Andrew's, was allowed to accept a living several miles distant from town, and at the same time to retain his professorship. This innovation was, at the next General Assembly, warmly attacked by the popular party, and as warmly defended by Dr. Hill and his adherents, who urged, among other arguments, that the universal smallness and equality of the Scotch livings tended to lull asleep ambition and to deaden all exertion among the members of the church; that the improvement of certain livings, so as to make them an object of ambition, would be attended with the most salutary effects in awakening emulation, and calling forth industry; and that, for this purpose, no better plan could be devised than the junction of professorships to church livings, in all cases where the distance did not absolutely preclude the discharge of both

both duties. These arguments, from the strength of the party which advanced them, prevailed in the General Assembly; but they by no means convinced the nation at large, who looked upon this innovation as an inlet to that system of pluralities, which has proved the bane of church discipline, and accelerated the decay of religion in the southern part of the island.

The fundamental maxims of the moderate party are very ably stated by Dr. Hill, in a paper inserted in the life of Principal Robertson, lately published by Mr. Stewart, professor of moral philosophy in the university of Edinburgh. In this account Dr. Robertson is represented as the founder of that party, and its supreme leader during his life. It is no small proof of Dr. Hill's talents that he was able, in a considerable degree, to succeed to the influence and station of that great man in the church. Mr. Stewart mentions him as "a gentleman intimately connected with Dr. Robertson by friendship, and highly respected by him for the talents and eloquence which he has for many years displayed in the ecclesiastical courts." The testimony of such men as Dr. Robertson and Mr. Stewart is sufficient to give the stamp of sterling worth to any character. A perusal of the paper alluded to will give a very favourable idea of the clearness of Dr. Hill's conceptions; and will also afford a pretty correct view of the policy of the church of Scotland.

His influence with the moderate party has long caused Dr. Hill to be looked upon as the leader of the General Assembly, and consequently the most conspi-

cuous figure in the church of Scotland; both his political and oratorical powers seem to entitle him to this distinction. Indeed, that degree of eloquence displayed both by him and his great antagonist, Dr. Brown of Aberdeen, is not only highly creditable to their country, but would even make a considerable figure in the House of Commons, that principal field of modern eloquence.

Dr. Hill's eloquence is addressed rather to the understanding than the passions, and perhaps it is principally deficient in feeling and warmth. His speeches are short, argumentative, and impressive. He is particularly dexterous in seizing the proper moment of speaking. He generally waits till towards the end of the debate, and then often makes a very able comment on what has been advanced in its course. From speaking late he has also sometimes derived an opportunity of putting in practice another piece of oratorical dexterity. Before delivering his own sentiments, he has been enabled to observe what course the determination of the Assembly was likely to take; and when he perceived that sentiments unfavourable to those of his party were likely to prevail, he would sometimes rise and move those measures which he saw would be acceded to. By this means he prevented the mortification of a defeat, and preserved the appearance of still leading the deliberations of the Assembly. Nor did this manœuvre at all diminish the confidence of his own party; for he never employed it except on indifferent occasions, or where by so doing he could

procure

procure measures more conformable to the views of his friends, than if he had left the motion to be made by their antagonists.

In politics Dr. Hill has always been a steady adherent to the Dundas interest. His uncle, Dr. MacCormick, late principal of St. Salvador's College, had been tutor to Mr. Secretary Dundas; and to this connection Dr. Hill is in part indebted for the situation he enjoys in the college and church, as well as for some of those few sinecures, such as chaplain to his Majesty, which the Crown has in its power to bestow on clergymen of the church of Scotland.

Dr. Hill married a townswoman of his own, by whom he has a large family of very fine children. In domestic life, he is very much respected and beloved. The pleasure which he takes in his family circle must delight every visitor. He bestows much attention on the improvement of his children; and to the respect to which he is entitled as an orator and a teacher, it is no trifling addition to say that he is a good father of a family. He is likewise extremely ready to do acts of kindness to the students under his care, and few go away from that college without carrying along with them a grateful remembrance of his friendly attentions.

ADMIRAL SIR ROGER CURTIS, BART.

> Set honour in one eye, and death in the other,
> And I will look on both indifferently:
> For, let the Gods so speed me, as I love
> The name of honour more than I fear death.
>
> SHAKSPEARE.

SIR ROGER CURTIS is the son of an eminent farmer, highly respected in the neighbourhood of Downton in Wiltshire, where he resided. Mr. Curtis evinced an early predilection for the honourable profession of which he has become so distinguished an ornament. His father, however, whose property was considerable, opposed the inclinations of an only son, and used every endeavour to divert him from the choice he had made; nor can we wonder that an affectionate parent should reluctantly consent to part with the prop of his declining years, and rather wish him to enjoy ease and independence on his paternal estate, than expose himself to the perils of a maritime life. Every means having been ineffectually used to dissuade Mr. Curtis from his purpose, he at length obtained a slow leave to quit the cool sequestered vale of life.

Great part of Mr. Curtis's probationary time he passed under the command of Admiral Barrington, a man whose example and advice were well calculated to form the seaman and the officer; for among the many meritorious characters that have adorned the British navy, few have enjoyed the esteem of their brother officers, and the respect of the world in general,

MAHARAJA SERFO

ral, in a greater degree than that gallant admiral. Our young seaman, having served with diligence and attention for several years, and passed the usual professional ordeal, in 1771 was promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

He was shortly after this period appointed lieutenant of the Otter sloop, on the Newfoundland station: that great national concern (the fisheries) did not escape the inquiring mind of Mr. Curtis; he rendered himself fully master of the nature and principles of a commerce, which, considered either as a source of wealth or as a nursery for seamen, is of the utmost importance to the British empire; the professional abilities of Lieutenant Curtis at this time attracted the attention of Admiral (afterward Lord) Shuldham, who united the usual offices of naval commander and governor of Newfoundland; and in 1775, when he was appointed to command on the American station, he chose our young officer as one of his lieutenants, whose merit soon procured him the unlimited confidence of the Admiral. In June 1776, Lieutenant Curtis obtained the rank of commander, and was appointed to the Senegal sloop.

On Lord Howe's succeeding Admiral Shuldham in the command of the fleet, Captain Curtis remained on the American station.

It is in the recollection of every one, that this was the eventful period at which the North American provinces revolted, and the whole of his lordship's command became a scene of obstinate and sanguinary warfare; the extent of sea-coast which he had to guard, and the smallness of his means, obliged him to dis-

perse his fleet, and many important stations were consequently filled by young officers: a situation highly favourable to an active mind, as a fortuitous event may give occasion to display abilities that might otherwise have remained unnoticed for years. It was on one of these happy occasions that Captain Curtis, by a judicious exertion of the power vested in a commanding officer, attracted the attention of Lord Howe. They had till this period been totally unacquainted with each other; the repeated instances of zeal and good conduct which the captain of the Senegal exhibited on various services confirmed his lordship in the opinion he had formed of him, and in April 1777, the Eagle, on board which his flag was flying, becoming vacant, Lord Howe promoted Captain Curtis to the rank of post captain, and appointed him to that ship, although he was at the time one of the youngest masters and commanders in the fleet.

This was undoubtedly the greatest proof the commander in chief could give of the confidence he reposed in Captain Curtis, and the high opinion he entertained of his abilities. Lord Howe, it is well known, was not a man who hastily formed his opinion: his friendships were the result of mature reflection, and conviction of the worth of those whom he honoured with them, and they were therefore the more likely to be lasting. The intimacy which now took place between Captain Curtis and that truly great man ended but with the lamented death of the latter.

During the remainder of the time Lord Howe commanded on the American station, Captain Curtis

continued to exercise the duties of captain of the fleet, and returned with him to Europe in the Eagle, in which ship he remained until she was ordered to the East Indies, when his health being impaired by the fatigues of service, he was permitted to resign the command.

In November 1780, he was appointed to command the Brilliant frigate, and soon after was dispatched to Gibraltar with sealed orders, having a cutter under his command. An attack from a very superior force of the enemy, and other adverse circumstances, prevented his getting into the bay of Gibraltar, and he was compelled to forego the object of his mission, and reluctantly to quit the scene of his future glory.

Captain Curtis having failed in his attempt to land his dispatches, proceeded up the Mediterranean to Minorca, where he remained until the commencement of 1781, when the garrison of Gibraltar being straitened for provisions, among other resources General Elliot had applied to Minorca for relief; a supply having been collected, several transports were dispatched under convoy of the Brilliant, and on the 21st of April Captain Curtis succeeded in throwing this supply into the garrison.

The Brilliant was warped into the Mole, and her commander took the direction of the naval force. It was about this period that the memorable siege of Gibraltar began to wear a serious aspect; the enemy's armed vessels very much annoyed the garrison, especially near the New Mole, and to the southward. Two gun-boats were all that Captain Curtis had to

oppose

oppose to numerous vessels of every description, which the enemy possessed; his zeal, gallantry, and indefatigable exertions, however, were such, that very great assistance was rendered, even with this ſmall force; the arrangement and discipline he maintained among the seamen were highly creditable to him; and that great judge of military merit, General Elliot, reposed the utmost confidence in his abilities.

The superiority of naval force possessed by the Spaniards rendered it exceedingly difficult for any supplies to approach the garrison in vessels of small force; and the light airs that often prevailed, gave to the enemy's row-boats a decided advantage; and the troops had often the mortification to behold the refreshments they were so much in want of, taken almost from their lips, notwithstanding the efforts of the small maritime force then in the Mole.

On one occasion, however, the skill and gallantry of the Britsh seamen succeeded in entering the Bay, notwithstanding the opposition of a most fearful odds.

On the morning of the 7th of August, about five o'clock, a brig was discovered in the Gut, about a third of the way over, between Carbarita Point and Europa; she was perceived by the Spaniards and the garrison nearly at the same time; it was perfectly calm, and she was rowing towards the rock. The enemy immediately sent out 14 gun-boats, carrying each a 26-pounder, and several launches, to attack her.

Notwithstanding the great inequality of force Captain Curtis resolved to attempt her rescue; all the force

force he possessed was the Repulse and Vanguard gun-boats; with these and the boats of the ships he went to her assistance. The enemy's force advanced faster than that from the garrison, and by eight o'clock had commenced the attack; the garrison were anxious spectators of the combat, and beheld the English brig, which they now discovered to be a sloop of war, with astonishment; she sustained the attack with the greatest firmness, and returned a cool and well regulated fire; the greater part of the gun-boats were soon almost close to her, and she seemed, as it were, buried in the clouds of grape-shot and the spray that surrounded her. The troops on the rock at this time almost gave her up, hardly supposing it possible, that the small force Captain Curtis commanded would venture near enough to render her material assistance; he however pushed on gallantly, and the brig did not long support the unequal combat without aid; the Repulse and Vanguard were judiciously placed, so as to cover the brig and annoy the enemy; the ships' boats went to her assistance, and the breeze springing up at this time, enabled her to near the rock a little. The Spaniards, however, still continued the attack, some coming up abreast of her, and others raking her. At length coolness and discipline prevailed over numbers; the steadiness, and bravery with which the brig defended herself, aided by the well-directed fire of grape-shot from the Vanguard and Repulse, succeeded in obliging the enemy to retire; and by ten o'clock they all fled, notwithstanding the approach of a xebec, mounting near 30

guns,

guns, to their aid; she finding the gun-boats perfectly subdued, also hauled off, and left the boats to tow their friend into the Mole, where she was received with the applauding shouts of the garrison, and proved to be his Majesty's sloop Helena, commanded by Captain Roberts, the same officer that had been first lieutenant with Captain Farmer, who bravely fell in an action between the Quebec and the Surveillante; on which occasion Lieutenant Roberts was promoted to the rank of master and commander, and for his gallant exertions in the present unequal contest, he was made post. General Elliot, in the following letter to the Secretary of State, pays a just tribute of applause to the officers concerned in this gallant affair:—

"I received your dispatch of the 20th of July, by his Majesty's sloop Helena, Captain Roberts, who arrived by dint of perseverance and bravery; with the assistance of our two gun-boats (the Vanguard and Repulse) he was towed into the Bay; they were posted by Captain Curtis himself. He personally conducted the attack in his barge with distinguished success, notwithstanding a constant and heavy fire of round and grape from the enemy's gun-boats for nearly two hours; the particulars of Captain Roberts's gallant behaviour, and that of his ship's company, will, no doubt, be transmitted by Captain Curtis; but as he (Captain Curtis) is not a man to speak of any transaction so highly redounding to his own honour, on my part it is an indispensible duty to inform your lordship, that his zeal for the service is scarcely to be paralleled, in forwarding every operation that can any way contribute to our comfort or defence.

"A small accession of strength by the addition of a few gun-boats, enabled the marine force under Captain Curtis to render occasional service in assisting vessels coming with refreshments."

When

When the celebrated sally was made in November of the same year, a detachment of seamen were employed under the command of naval officers, and although it was foreign to his department, on this, as on every occasion where the public service could in the least be benefited by his advice or assistance, he voluntarily accompanied General Elliot; and that able officer, in his public letter, speaking of Captain Curtis, says, "he greatly distinguished himself by his discernment, assistance and personal efforts."

It is well known that on this memorable occasion, batteries and approaches, which had cost the enemy nearly eighteen months incessant labour to construct, were destroyed in a few hours; and this, by the prudence and good order observed by the soldiers and seamen, was effected with a trifling loss.

No occurrence of importance in which Captain Curtis was engaged, happened until the following year. The brigade of seamen, however, are acknowledged on all occasions to have rendered the most eminent service, as well in constructing works under the direction of the engineers, as in every other exertion that took place during the period of a siege that will ever be remembered as one of the proudest boasts of Britain; Captain Curtis shared in every danger, and his example and precept established a degree of discipline among the seamen that would have done honour to veteran soldiers.

Early in September 1782, the fire of the enemy, and the apparent formidable attack that was in a state of forwardness, rendered it necessary to scuttle the ships

in the New Mole, which obliged the seamen to encamp near Europa Point. On the 11th of the same month the brigade of seamen is very honourably noticed by General Elliot, in an account of an attack made by the Spanish fleet. After some previous description, he observes, that

"The squadron then went to the eastward of the rock, and formed in a line (the admiral leading), came before the batteries of Europa, and under a very slow sail commenced a fire from all their guns until the last ship had passed. They repeated their manœuvre at two o'clock the following morning, and again in the forenoon of the same day. These successive cannonades did not any way damage the works. Some of the leading ships having been pretty frequently struck by our shot, they afterwards kept at a greater distance. Two Spanish ships went early in that morning to Algeziras to repair, as we imagine. All the batteries at Europa were manned by the marine brigade (encamped there), with a small proportion of artillerists. The guns were extremely well laid and pointed; the whole under the immediate command of Brigadier Curtis."

The 13th of September, the day on whic hthe memorable attack was made by the combined forces on the garrison of Gibraltar, will ever be recorded as reflecting the highest honour on the military character of Great Britain; it was on this glorious day that the marine brigade, under Captain Curtis, gained immortal honour, and no words can do justice to the bravery and humanity of their leader.

About eight in the morning, the Spanish battering ships got under weigh, and shortly after ten, the vessels were all placed at the stations allotted them in a masterly manner; when there commenced one of the most formidable cannonades that perhaps ever was made;

made; the ten battering ships carried 212 twenty-six pounders, and taking into the account the fire from the Spanish lines, the garrison had to sustain that of 400 pieces of the heaviest artillery, beside mortars. The total amount of the combined forces was as follows:

Spanish ships of three decks, -	2
Of the line, - - -	28
French ships of three decks, -	5
Of the line, - - -	9
Spanish ships from fifty to sixty guns, -	3
Battering ships, - - -	10
Floating battery, - - -	1
Bomb-ketches, - - -	5

beside frigates, xebecs, and an immense number of gun and mortar-boats; the enemy had also collected near 300 large boats to carry troops, and their intention, it is believed, was, should the battering ships succeed in silencing the garrison, to have attempted a landing.

The eyes of all Europe had long been turned on this famous siege, and the preparations latterly made by the allied forces of France and Spain, were of such a magnitude, that it was generally supposed victory must at length have crowned their persevering efforts; the princes of the blood royal of France, some of the principal nobility of Spain, and many distinguished military officers had joined the besieging army, and, together with an immense crowd of spectators, were anxious witnesses of the attack; the combined powers had formed the most sanguine expectations of success from their battering-ships, deemed perfect in design,

 completed

completed by dint of prodigious labour, and unlimited profusion of expence, and, by common report, pronounced invincible.

The English batteries opened as the enemy came before them, and an awful and tremendous fire was kept up on both sides; the Spanish floating batteries were supported by the cannon and mortars in their lines and approaches; and two bomb ketches, which were brought forward, and continued to throw shells into the garrison during the attack.

Red-hot shot were sent with such precision from the garrison, that in the afternoon the smoke was seen to issue from the upper part of the Spanish Admiral's, and some other ships; and men were perceived ineffectually labouring to extinguish the fire by the use of fire engines: the fire from the garrison was kept up briskly, and that of the enemy gradually decreased.

About seven in the evening they fired only from a few guns, and that only at intervals.

At midnight the admiral's ship was plainly discovered to be on fire, and an hour after she was completely in flames; eight more of the Spanish ships took fire in succession. Confusion was now evident among them, and the numerous rockets thrown up from each ship was a demonstration of the greatness of their distress; their signals were answered from the fleet, and they immediately sent launches and boats of different descriptions to take out the men; the fire from the Spanish lines, however, did not slacken, and the ships not completely in flames still sent a few shot at intervals.

At this critical period Captain Curtis gave proof of his great skill and judgment; he advanced with the whole division of gun-boats (twelve in number), each carrying a twenty-four or eighteen pounder, and formed them so as to flank the line of the enemy's battering ships, while they were annoyed by an excessive heavy and well directed fire from the garrison. The fire from the gun-boats was exceedingly well directed, and kept up with great vigour; it effectually prevented the enemy from approaching to the assistance of their ships.

General Elliot, in his public letter, observes, speaking of this manœuvre, that "the enemy's daring attempt at sea was effectually defeated by the constant and well-supported fire from the batteries; but the well-timed, judicious, and spirited attack made by Brigadier Curtis, rendered this success a complete victory."

The scene now became entirely changed; the Spaniards having abandoned the ships, and left the men in them to the mercy of the English or the flames, the enemy became objects only of pity, and as much courage was exerted to save them as had before been displayed in repelling their attack; the men were seen amid flames and on floating pieces of wreck, imploring the compassion of their enemies, and this humane service became a very perilous employment, from the firing of the cannon as the metal became heated. This scene cannot be painted in stronger language than in the words of General Elliot.

"They fled precipitately with all their boats, abandoning their ships, in which some officers, and numbers of their men, including many wounded were left to perish. This unavoidably must have been their wretched fate, had they not been dragged from amidst the flames by the personal intrepidity of Brigadier Curtis, at the utmost hazard of his own life, a life invaluable to his Majesty's service. For some time I felt the utmost anguish, seeing his pinnace close to one of the largest ships at the moment she blew up, and spread her wreck to a vast extent round. The black cloud of smoak being dispersed, I was again revived by the fight of the pinnace, little apprehending that the Brigadier was in the utmost danger of sinking, some pieces of timber having fallen into and pierced the boat (killing the cockswain and wounding others of the men), and leaving scarce any hope of reaching the shore; providentially he was saved by stopping the hole with the seamens jackets until boats arrived to his relief."

By the same explosion one gun-boat was sunk, and another damaged. Animated by the example of Captain Curtis, the British seamen discovered as much ardour in employing every effort to relieve their enemies, as they had done in conquering them; by their generous exertions thirteen Spanish officers and 344 men were rescued from the flames. Thus ended a contest, in which it is difficult to decide whether the intrepidity or humanity of the English deserved most commendation.

Shortly after this, on the 11th of October, the St. Michael, a Spanish 74 gun-ship, was driven under the walls of Gibraltar and captured; by the great exertions of Captain Curtis, her stores were taken out, the ship got afloat and warped into the Mole by the 17th, notwithstanding the enemy annoyed them exceedingly by shells when carrying out anchors, &c. to get her off.

Lord

Lord Howe shortly after arrived with a convoy to relieve the garrison; it appears by his public letter, that had due attention been paid to the instructions communicated by Captain Curtis, the transports might have entered the Bay some days earlier than was accomplished; however, the service was at length completely executed, and the fortress relieved in the presence of a very superior force, much to the honour of the British naval character. Captain Curtis, being charged with the final communications of General Elliot to Lord Howe, embarked on board the Latona frigate for that purpose. The situation of the enemy's fleet the next day, however, precluding him from returning to Gibraltar, he remained on board the Victory. The captain of that ship being dispatched with an account of the proceedings of the fleet during the relief of Gibraltar, and the subsequent partial actions with the combined squadrons of France and Spain, a vacancy consequently took place, and Captain Curtis was appointed to the Victory.

Had it been a matter of choice, probably he would have preferred remaining with his old friend, Lord Howe, as captain of the Victory, to again resuming the command at Gibraltar. It was not, however, left to his option; his Majesty's Ministers, in consequence of a pressing solicitation from General Elliot, having ordered Captain Curtis to Gibraltar in the Thetis frigate.

During his stay in England, Captain Curtis had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him, and received very flattering marks of his Sovereign's appro-

 bation;

bation; he was appointed ambassador to the Emperor of Morocco and the Barbary States, and took the rank of commodore. In March 1783, Sir Roger Curtis arrived at Gibraltar, and resumed his old command, where he remained active and distinguihsed until the end of the siege. No event of importance happened during this period, if we except an attempt at mutiny on board the St. Michael, which he quelled with great spirit and presence of mind. On the 3d of October, Sir Roger went with a flag of truce into the Spanish lines, on the report of peace; he was received with the greatest distinction, and that desirable event was shortly after announced to the garrison in form.

In the latter end of 1783, Sir Roger Curtis was succeeded in the command on the Mediterranean station by Sir John Lindsay, K. B. and in January 1784, the Brilliant was paid off.

In the month of May in the same year Sir Roger was appointed to the Ganges, of 74 guns, then a guardship at Portsmouth, of which ship he retained the command until December 1787; from that period until the year 1790, was the only interval of leisure he enjoyed for many years. Few men are more disposed to enjoy the felicities of peace than the subject of these memoirs, or better calculated to cheer and adorn the social hour; his manners are elegant and engaging, his understanding highly cultivated, and his heart warm and friendly. From the domestic circle, where he was beloved and respected, Sir Roger Curtis was called by the appearance of an approaching rupture with Spain.

In

In May 1790, Lord Howe hoisted his flag on board the Queen Charlotte, of which ship Sir Roger was appointed captain. Shortly afterward the Honourable Leveson Gower, who was captain of the fleet, having hoisted his flag, Sir Roger Curtis was chosen by the commander in chief to fill that important station. The court of Spain having complied with the demands of Great Britain relative to the affair in dispute, the armament was discontinued, and the fleet paid off. In December of the same year, Captain Curtis was appointed to the Brunswick, of 74 guns, then guardship at Portsmouth; he continued in her during the Russian armament in 1791, and until the beginning of the year 1793. During this interval of peace, the ship he commanded was ever remarked as being in high order, and was a school of discipline; many young men who were first ushered into the service on board that ship, and under the patronage of her distinguished commander, have since become ornaments to their country.

On the commencement of the late war, Lord Howe honoured his friend by applying for him as captain of the fleet, and Sir Roger Curtis went on board the Queen Charlotte to assist the commander in chief.

In this eminent situation he continued to distinguish himself by an unwearied application to the many and important duties of his station; and his constant attention to the discipline of the fleet, undoubtedly contributed much to the glorious victory afterwards gained; a victory by which the name of the departed hero who commanded the British squadron has been immortalized.

Upon a promotion of flag-officers in April 1794, Sir Roger Curtis was appointed colonel of the Plymouth division of marines.

Shortly after this the memorable battle of the 1st of June was gained by the fleet under Lord Howe's command. It would be superfluous to dwell on the advantages the country derived by the success of that important day; or on the merits of those who served under his Lordship: they are recorded in the naval annals of the British empire, and exhibit one of the most splendid victorios ever atchieved by our gallant tars. The subject of our present memoir, however, enjoyed his full share of glory, in the honourable mention made of his services by the admiral, and which, as his biographers, we feel it our duty to notice. Of the evolutions necessary to be put in practice to bring the enemy to action, it is said: "To the unremitting exertions and skill of the first captain of the fleet, during the long chace which preceded the action, in very tempestuous weather, much praise is due;" and in his official account of the battle Lord Howe nobly acknowledges the obligations due to such exalted merit. Speaking of Sir Roger Curtis, he says,

"It is incumbent on me, nevertheless, now to add, that I am greatly indebted to him for his counsels as well as conduct in every branch of my official duties."

On the return of the victorious fleet into port, when his Majesty visited the squadron, and honoured the officers by personally destributing the marks of

royal approbation, Sir Roger Curtis received a gold chain and medal, of the same description as those presented to the rear admirals, to which rank his situation as captain of the fleet corresponded; on the same occasion his Sovereign further testified his royal favour by raising him to the dignity of a baronet of Great Britain.

Shortly after this, Sir Roger Curtis was placed in a situation peculiarly unpleasant and delicate, as prosecutor in the Court Martial held on the captain of the Cæsar. On this occasion he displayed great ability and legal knowledge.

On the 4th of July 1794, Sir Roger Curtis was promoted to the rank of rear-admiral; he continued to serve in the channel fleet, but the enemy kept too closely in port to give him opportunity of distinguishing himself as a leader. On the 14th of February 1799, he was promoted to the rank of vice-admiral of the red, and in the month of May 1800, he was appointed to command at the Cape of Good Hope. His laudable attention to œconomy in every branch of the public service is strikingly meritorious, and one instance is particularly deserving of notice:

On the Jupiter, of 50 guns, being in want of repair, he determined, instead of sending her to the East Indies, which had always been the custom, and where her repairs would have cost an immense sum to government, to make the experiment whether it was not possible to refit her at the Cape; she was accordingly hove down and put in perfect repair in Simeon's bay: he thus accomplished an object which,

which, as a precedent, might have been of considerable importance to the navy, and which reflects high credit on his perseverance.

The return of peace has of course suspended the exertions of Sir R. Curtis's naval talents; but he is one of those men to whom the country look with confidence, should any future occasion call our navy into action, and we congratulate ourselves on possessing such a man, who to a vigorous understanding and great zeal for the service, joins that degree of nautical skill and professional experience, the result of observation during a long life of peril and fatigue, that promises, whenever he may again be called to arms, to lead our gallant seamen to victories equally glorious with those in which he has borne a part so conspicuous and honourable.

DR. THORNTON,

BOTANICAL LECTURER AT GUY'S HOSPITAL, &c. &c.

ROBERT JOHN THORNTON, M. D. is the son of the justly celebrated Bonnell Thornton, so well known as the greatest humourist, and one of the best classical scholars of his day.* He lost his father early

* Mr. Bonnell Thornton was the author of several humorous pieces both in profe and verse. He died in 1768, and left behind him the greater part of a translation of Plautus. Being a man of ready wit, and at the fame time addicted to conviviality, he was never at a loss for an apology for any thing he chofe to indulge in; and it is reported, that an old female relation having found him in bed

in life, but had the good fortune to be left under the guidance of a lady of very elegant manners, who proved at the same time the fondest of parents. In consequence of her maternal care he received a liberal education, and being removed from a public school, to which he had been at first consigned, he was placed under the tuition of a gentleman, in the neighbourhood of Cambridge, who paid remarkable attention to the cultivation of his mind, and was as much attached to him as if he had been his own son.

This schoolmaster only received six boarders, and was remarked for what was often accounted a whimsical mode of education, in consequence of copying closely the system of J. J. Rousseau, which he greatly admired. Among the schemes adopted by him, for the purpose of instruction, in order to render the memories of his pupils more retentive, he was in the habit of making them form general indexes to histo-

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bed at noon, exclaimed, "Ah! Bonnell, Bonnell, I see plainly you are determined to shorten your days!"

"Very true, Madam, (replied he) but by the same rule, I shall *lengthen my nights*."

Boswell records (Life of Johnson, vol. i. p. 227), that Dr. Johnson was charmed with his burlesque ode on St. Cecilia's Day, adapted to the ancient British music, viz. the Salt-box, the Jew's-harp, the Marrow-bones and Cleavers, the Hum-strum or Hurdy-gurdy, &c. "Johnson (says the author of his Life) praised its humour, and seemed much diverted with it. He repeated the following passage:

"In strains more exalted the salt-box shall join,
"And clattering and battering and clapping combine;
"With a rap and a tap while the hollow side sounds,
"Up and down leaps the flap, and with rattling rebounds."

rical

rical works, &c. &c. To his judicious plans may be attributed, in a great measure, the reputation Dr. Thornton has since acquired as a literary man.

His "Medical Extracts" contain a variety of information respecting the new discoveries in chemistry and medicine; and the perfections of each writer being selected with care and judgment, he has thus formed a most complete body of medical facts and rational reasoning.

His "Politician's Creed," in two volumes, is equally the result of much reading and a retentive memory; and by interweaving his own remarks, and often drawing his own conclusions, he has given to both publications an air of originality. The first of these, which is to be found in the library of every man of taste and knowledge, has already gone through three editions, and a fourth is preparing for the press.

When Dr. Thornton was at Trinity College, Cambridge, the precepts of Rousseau were even there adopted by him. He also paid great attention to the classics, and besides his public tutor, had the Rev. R. Hartley, of Christ's College, since master of the grammar-school at Bingley, for his private preceptor.

Divinity at first apppeared to be the object of his pursuit, and he accordingly studied the sacred Scriptures in their original language. He also attended the lectures on law, delivered by Dr. Jowet, of Trinity Hall, with as great ardour as if he had been intended for the bar; and at the same time studied botany, under Professor Martyn; chemistry, under Dr. Milner, master of Queen's College; and anatomy, under Professor Harwood.

After finishing his education at Cambridge, with much reputation, he was sent abroad, and travelled for some time; on his return, he had the choice laid before him of any one of the three learned professions, for each of which he had been qualified by a learned and liberal education. He accordingly decided in favour of medicine, and has since greatly distinguished himself as the coadjutor of Doctor Beddoes in the establishment of pneumatic remedies. His letters to that gentleman have been well received by the faculty, and his practice very generally approved of.

Dr. Smith, president of the Linnæan Society, observing the attention of this gentleman to his lectures, first took him under his own immediate protection, and afterwards resigned to him his botanical chair at Guy's Hospital, where he himself has since given public lectures, greatly to the satisfaction of his auditors.

He now stands forward as the editor of a splendid work on botany, called "A new Illustration of Linnæus," which promises to become a national publication, and bids fair to confer lustre both on himself and his country. The object of this work is to trace, in as perspicuous a manner as possible, the philosophical principles of botany, from the earliest times up to the present period, and by faithful and well executed engravings of the several subjects of investigation, to bring this curious and interesting subject within the comprehension of every man of common sense. Following the order of nature, he begins with the seed committed to the ground, and traces its various evo-

lutions,

lutions, until the root, stem, branches, and leaves are formed. He here chiefly dwells on the anatomy of the root, and the diversity of its forms and offices. The object of the next consideration is to display the organized structure of the stem and branches, when he takes occasion to consider the several juices of plants, with the motion of the sap.

After this he contemplates the various appendages attached to the stems and branches, explaining the organization and design of each. Then he examines into the structure and variety of the leaves; their relationship to light, and the evolution from them of oxygene and other airs. The last enquiry is the food of plants, when he enters widely into the consideration of the principles of agriculture.

Arriving at the flower, he considers its structure, and while contemplating the uses of the several parts which compose it, he enters fully into the sexual system, and recapitulates and refutes the various objections which have been raised against this doctrine.

He next lays before his readers an account of the origin of systems, when those of Rivinus, Tournefort, &c. are detailed; after which follows a full explanation of the sexual system of Linnæus.

In the order of the discoveries, the lives of the several eminent botanists are comprehended, and an account given of the most celebrated professors and botanical writers of the present day. After this introduction, he commences with a translation of the "genera" of plants of Linnæus; to which is added, all the late discoveries made since his time. In order

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to render the science of botany as simple as possible, the classes of the great Sandes will be reduced to twelve, his "genera" new arranged, and tables given, invented by the author, comprising the easiest discriminating characteristics.

Dr. Shaw, of the British Museum, addressed the following lines to Dr. Thornton, on seeing the beautiful representation of the agave, or American aloe, prefixed to the third number of his "New Illustration of the Sexual System of Linnæus," with which we shall conclude the present article.

"Nurs'd by a length of rolling years,
"Her stately form Agave rears,
"Protracting still with wise delay,
"The glory follow'd by decay.
"Till urg'd by Time's resistless date,
"Nobly she braves her destin'd fate,
"And conscious of th' approaching doom,
"Burst forth impatient into bloom,
"While, rich from all the nerving stems,
"Profusely shoot the golden gems;
"Then fading midst admiring eyes,
"The vegetable MARTYR dies!
"But flow'ring thus, at THY command,
"Unchang'd her finish'd form shall stand;
"And glorying in *perennial bloom*,
"Shall *smile thro' ages yet to come*."

MAJOR GENERAL IRA ALLEN,

OF VERMONT.

THE singular and extraordinary man, the particulars of whose life we are about to detail, is a native

of the American woods, and his history is in some measure connected with the American revolution. He was born in the town of Cornwall, in the county of Litchfield, and state of Connecticut, about the year 1752, and appears early in life to have been actuated by the adventurous spirit of many of his countrymen, who not finding *sufficient room* for their exertions in the old settlements on the borders of the Atlantic, penetrated through forests and across mountains, in the ardour of enterprize, and subjected the unclaimed and uncultivated desert to the purposes of their ambition.

At length, however, the adjacent colonies began to form a just notion of the growing importance of these remote inhabitants of the forest, and the respective governors and legislatures actually granted the same territories to different individuals. Hence, long anterior to the hostilities which terminated in the independence of North America, dissentions prevailed in many parts of the back settlements; and to such a pitch were these carried at length, on the banks of Lake Champlain, about the year 1770, that something bordering on a civil war actually ensued.

These disputes chiefly originated in the opposite pretensions of two rival parties, one claiming under grants from the governor of New Hampshire; the other pretending to have a superior right in the same property, in consequence of similar grants from the governor of New York.

At length the New Hampshire people, who were settled on the territory in question, actually took arms, elected Ethan Allen (an elder brother of Ira) their

their colonel, and many depredations were committed on both sides, which sufficiently evinced the temporary suspension of legal authority, and the prevalence of superior strength.

At this early period, Mr. Ira Allen, who was then very young, was appointed a lieutenant under Colonel Ethan Allen, who headed the defenders of the New Hampshire titles; and he appears to have been an active partizan in the cause wherein he engaged.

From this time until the battle of Bunker's-hill, he employed himself chiefly in exploring the country bordering upon Lake Champlain; in making settlements there; in defending the New Hampshire titles, and in acquiring a considerable landed estate, subject of course to the contingency of an ultimate decision in favour of the claims set up by him and his friends. Immediately after the skirmish at Lexington, on the 19th of April, 1775, the governor and council of Connecticut dispatched messengers to Colonel E. Allen, requesting his assistance against the British forts and garrisons in that quarter. He accordingly accompanied Colonel (afterwards General) Arnold in this enterprize, and they actually surprized and took the garrisons of Ticonderoga, Crown Point, St. John's, a sloop of war of 16 guns, about eighty prisoners, near three hundred pieces of cannon, shot, shells, &c. Lieutenant Ira Allen, who was also employed on this service, afterwards conveyed Brook Watson, then Commissary-general, down Lake Champlain with a flag of truce.

On the declaration of independence, which Congress announced on the 4th of July 1776, the country which now forms the state of Vermont called a convention on the part of that district, for the establishment of its internal jurisprudence; and on this occasion Mr. Ira Allen was not only elected one of the representatives of the people, but also nominated member of a select committee, appointed to visit and explain to certain counties the nature of the revolution, both as it respected the general and particular grounds of complaint against the mother country.

Mr. Allen had also a principal share in a resolution passed by the convention on the 15th of January 1777, which declared the people of that country a free and independent jurisdiction, by the name of "New Connecticut; and appointed the ensuing convention for the establishment of a bill of rights and a new model of government. The bill of rights was transmitted to congress by commissioners; and on their return, Mr. Ira Allen published a pamphlet in support of the independence thus assumed.

Mr. Allen was next nominated a member of a committee of safety appointed to confer with the commanding officer of Ticonderoga, concerning measures of public defence. During this conference General Burgoyne made his appearance on Lake Champlain, and General Poor, who commanded in that quarter, refused them any other military assistance than the permission for Colonel Warner to raise a body of volunteers. Ticonderoga was of course speedily evacuated, and the situation of Mr. Allen and

his adherents began to assume a serious aspect, they being placed as it were between two fires, General Burgoyne on the one side, and the New Yorkers on the other.

Mr. Allen, however, suggested and carried into effect a plan for the support of a regiment, by the confiscation and sale of the estates of disaffected persons. This regiment, together with that of Colonel Warner, chiefly at the instigation of Mr. Allen, placed themselves under the command of General Starke, from New Hampshire; and the individuals composing both unanimously refused obedience to the orders of General Schuyler, then at the head of the troops of New York. These were the men who afterwards fought the battle of Bennington against Colonels Baum and Skene. In December 1777, Mr. Allen seems to have had a principal share in forming the constitution of Vermont, which was printed and distributed under his superintendance, antecedent to a general election, on the 12th of March 1778. Immediately after the election the first general assembly was held at Windsor, on which occasion Mr. Ira Allen was appointed a member of the executive council, and treasurer of the state.

Not long after this period, the legislature of Vermont nominated him surveyor-general of the state lands. He was also sent by them, in quality of an agent, to adjust certain misunderstandings respecting jurisdiction, &c. with the general court of New Hampshire, on which occasion he conducted himself to the entire satisfaction of both parties.

Soon after this Mr. Allen was appointed a colonel in the militia of Vermont; and the claims of three different states to the territories of Vermont, viz. New York, New Hampshire, and Massachusett's, having given rise to considerable dissensions among the people, Ethan and Ira Allen deemed it expedient, on two several occasions, to take the colonels of New York and their militia prisoners; they, however, were at length released, on their acknowledging the jurisdiction of the courts of Vermont and the paying of a small fine.

Dr. Witherspoon, Mr. Atley and others, were at length appointed commissioners on the part of congress to visit the country of Vermont, and to collect information concerning the discordant claims of territorial jurisdiction. On their report a number of recommendatory resolutions were passed by the legislature, with a design to reconcile the contending parties to their ultimate decision.

The legislature of Vermont continued, nevertheless, to exercise a sovereign jurisdiction; to sell the confiscated, to grant the vacant lands, and to report their proceedings regularly to congress.

At the sitting of the legislature of Vermont, in October 1779, Colonel Ira Allen was appointed a commissioner to discover the disposition of the respective states south of New York, towards the independence of the state of Vermont; with instructions to urge the consequence which that new state had acquired in the war, and their "natural and divine" right to form a government for themselves.

The governor and council of Vermont, although they

they now offered to account to congress for the amount of the confiscated lands, and also to contribute their quota towards the expences of the war, *provided they obtained a recognition of their independence in return*, yet they were unable to obtain any favourable decision from that body. On this they published an "Appeal to the World," supposed to be drawn up by their treasurer, and congress having voted certain resolutions hostile to their pretensions, in the spring of 1780, these resolutions were immediately followed by a very spirited remonstrance on the part of the infant state, accompanied by a conditional threat to suspend hostilities against Great Britain.

In April 1781, Colonel Ira Allen was appointed by the governor and council of Vermont to settle a cartel, and also to agree to an armistice with the British troops in Canada; and he accordingly proceeded thither with full powers, accompanied only by a subaltern officer, two serjeants, and twelve privates. He was met by commissioners from the British commander in chief at Isle aux Noix; and the terms of an armistice and exchange were there settled, *secretly* and *verbally*, for the whole territory of Vermont.

The articles respecting the exchange of prisoners were laid before the legislature by Colonel Allen, in consequence of a reference to him by the governor on opening the business of the session; but the business of the *armistice* was kept carefully concealed by the council. A secret correspondence was afterwards carried on between the British commander in Canada, and Colonels Ethan and Ira Allen in Vermont.

In June 1781, Colonel Ira Allen and several of the commissioners were again appointed to wait on congress. At this juncture, an intercepted letter from Lord George Germain to Sir Henry Clinton had so alarmed this body, with the dread of a schism on the part of Vermont, that more respect was now paid to the delegates from that country; and, on the 7th of August 1781, the legislature passed resolutions of a favourable nature, appointed a committee to confer with the delegates, and finally proposed the admission of Vermont into the union as an independent state.

Notwithstanding this, Colonel Allen, in conjunction with a Major Fay, met the British commissioners at Skeensborough, for the purpose of exchanging prisoners; and they took care to furnish them with copies of the interrogatories made on the part of the committee of congress.

The plan of government for the people of Vermont, which had been lately acknowledged as a sovereign state by the American Congress, was now modelled into that of a British colony: it was also settled at this interview, that his Majesty should appoint one of the citizens of that country governor, but that the lieutenant-governor and the legislature should be chosen by the people. The organization of a military force was strenuously insisted on by the British commissioners; but Colonel Allen found means to parry this proposition, and even to reason them out of it. He was obliged, however, notwithstanding his reluctance, to consent that a military force should come up the lake in October, for the purpose of distributing proclama-

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tions announcing Vermont a Brisish colony, (provided however that the people were *perfectly disposed to it*) and after agreeing to these terms the parties separated.

The legislature of Vermont having assembled in October, the armistice with the British was concealed, and the usual appearances kept up by small parties of observation. One of these, however, who were not in the secret of the armistice, happened to attack an out-poſt belonging to the English, and lost their serjeant. This affair produced some confusion; but Colonel Allen contrived to continue his correspondence and connexion with the British commissioners.

In the mean time, the legislature of Vermont refused its assent to the late resolutions of congress, and insisted on unconditional admission into the union, as a sovereign people, leaving all other disputes to a subsequent adjustment. They also passed laws, and appointed commissioners to negociate concerning their differences, and settle their boundaries with the adjacent states. But these measures do not appear to have produced any salutary effect; for the recent surrender of Lord Cornwallis's army had left the states of New Hampshire and New York at leisure to enforce their respective claims. The militia of New York, under General Ganesvoort, was accordingly marched into the western parts of Vermont, where they encamped: the people of that country, under the command of Colonel Abbot, took the field likewise, but they did not commence hostilities. The militia of New Hampshire were also said to be in motion.

In this state of affairs, Colonel Allen was dispatched to Governor Chittenden, in order to obtain his mediation between the contending parties. Having visited both encampments, and exhorted both to forbearance, he returned home immediately, and recommended that a superior force to that of New York should be sent to the assistance of the people of Vermont. This was accordingly effected, under the command of a Colonel Walbridge; and after several letters had passed between this officer and General Ganesvoort, the latter prudently retired without bloodshed.

Governor Chittenden having written to General Washington on the subject of the independence of Vermont, received an answer from him, decidedly in favour of the sovereignty of that state, dated the 1st of January, 1782. Shortly after this, a party of loyal recruits, raised in Vermont, were taken with their officer by a body of the American adherents; but by the address of Colonel Allen, and according to the terms of his *secret armistice*, the lives of these men appear to have been saved; and they were exchanged for double their number of prisoners in Canada. From that time to the treaty of peace, in 1783, congress seem to have been counteracting their own resolutions in respect to Vermont; while Colonel Allen appears to have managed matters on both sides, and to have carried on a secret and confidential intercourse with General Haldimand in Canada.

Immediately after the peace of 1783, the governor and council of Vermont appointed Colonel Ira Allen their commissioner, to concert measures with the legislature

legislature of Canada for opening a free trade with Lake Champlain; and he seems also to have had secret instructions to *sound* the conditions and terms on which Vermont might be ultimately received as a British colony, notwithstanding the late treaty had acknowledged and recognized it as a part of the federal union. At length, however, the state of New York having passed conciliatory laws, the people of Vermont did the same on their part, and paid to that state a compensation of thirty thousand dollars for the extinction of her claims; and a convention of Vermont having now decided the general disposition of the people to be in favour of their remaining an independent state, rather than becoming a British colony, they elected representatives, and were formally received into the congress of the united states, in 1791.

In the course of the same year Mr. Allen obtained an act of the legislature for the establishment of an university at Burlington, on Lake Champlain, pursuant to his memorial of 1789; and to this institution he then became the donor of lands, which have been since valued at four thousand pounds sterling. Soon after this, he rose to the rank of eldest major-general in Vermont.

After various negotiations in Canada for the accommodation of the commerce of Vermont through the St. Lawrence, and for cutting a canal from the river leading into Lake Champlain to join the river St. Lawrence near Montreal, at his own expence and risk, General Allen set out on a voyage to England in 1795, for the avowed purpose of establishing

establishing a commercial correspondence, purchasing arms for the militia of Vermont, and negotiating for his Majesty's permission to cut the above-mentioned canal. So far as we are furnished with documents, it does not appear that his applications concerning the navigation of Vermont have been attended with success.

In the prosecution of that part of his mission which relates to the *military* interests of Vermont, and which has made a considerable noise in the English courts of admiralty, he set out from London on the 24th of May, 1796, in search of arms. Having understood, as he says, that he could not export them from England without an order of the King in council, he proceeded to the continent, where he purchased of the French republic, through their agent the minister of war, twenty thousand muskets, bayonets, &c. twenty-four brass cannons, 4-pounders, six gun carriages, and six ammunition waggons. He accordingly shipped on board the *Olive Branch*, William Bryant, master, at Ostend, 14,730 muskets, 14,730 bayonets, 1091 scabbards for bayonets, 21 French brass field-pieces, 4-pounders, three travelling carriages for ditto, 12 ſpunges for field-pieces, three wadhooks for ditto, six ammunition boxes for ditto, 18 handspikes for ditto, three elevating screws, 12 wood master-bars, with one pair of swingle-trees to each, for horses to draw the carriages, and two pair of separate swingle-trees.

On the 19th of November 1796, in the course of his voyage to New York, being about sixty leagues to the westward of Scilly, he was captured by his Majesty's

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jesty's ship Audacious, Davidge Gould, commander, and brought into Portsmouth. After a tedious litigation, in the court of admiralty of Great Britain, the cause was carried before the Lords Commissioners of appeals, where it is understood to be still depending.

This event has been attended with the most disastrous consequences to General Allen, as it has deranged his private concerns, prevented all attention to his commercial pursuits, and subjected him more than once to be shut up in a spunging-house.

It having been insinuated in the course of the legal proceedings that General Allen had not the concurrence of Governor Chittenden, in this undertaking, as had been afferted, a cloud of suspicion was in consequence thrown on this extraordinary purchase, and he determined to go to France for the testimonies required; and having procured passports to this end from the alien office, he went from London to Paris about the month of June 1798, where, we understand, he has until very lately been imprisoned.

General Allen is not yet fifty years of age; he is a married man, and has several children. In point of stature he is below the middle size, and his person and address are both prepossessing. He has habitually acquired a command over his passions; is cheerful, good tempered and benevolent; but somewhat positive in his opinions, which has, however, given an air of firmness to all his public measures.

During the course of the trial alluded to, General Allen printed the whole proceedings, as taken down by a short-hand writer; and he has also published

lished the History of the State of Vermont, which, according to his account, contained the progressive population, in fighting men, annexed to the respective periods, as follows, viz.

In 1781, they were estimated at 7,000.
1792, — — — 18,500.
1798, — — — near 30,000.

Yet it is but a few years back that the whole country was a wilderness, overgrown with wood, the receptacle of wild beasts, and unimpressed by the footsteps of man! Mr. Ira Allen, who had shared in all its infant struggles, has lived to see Vermont attain an unexampled degree of prosperity, and after atchieving its independence, has beheld it become an important state in the American union; while he himself, by a cruel reverse of fortune, equally sudden and unexpected, after endowing an university, and acting as a legislator and a general, has been subjected in one foreign country to all the rigours of imprisonment, and in another to all the miseries attendant on confiscation.

THOMAS JONES, M. A.

SENIOR TUTOR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

THE subject of this memoir, though he has not appeared before the world as a writer, may justly be ranked among the public characters of the time. The distinguished reputation with which he has discharged, during many years, the duties of one of the most important

important offices in the university of Cambridge, has diffused his name through the wide circle of those who are connected with that university, and must render some account of his life interesting to the general body of readers.

Mr. Jones is a native of North Wales. In 1774 he became a student of St. John's College, Cambridge. In that society he remained a year and then removed to Trinity, being obliged to this step by the confined nature of the Johnian foundation, which excluded him from the prospect of a fellowship.

He was obliged on his removal to Trinity to degrade, that is, to surrender his seniority and rank among those of the next lower year, the statutes or regulations of the college requiring that those who are elected fellows shall have resided in it during the usual period of the under-graduateship. This circumstance was probably not very disagreeable to Mr. Jones; the delay only detained him in studies which were perfectly congenial to his taste. The mathematical sciences, which must absorb the attention of all who are ambitious of Cambridge honours, were cultivated by him with the ardour which is inspired by the ready perception of their beauties. He was senior wrangler of the year 1779, with extraordinary reputation: the second wrangler of the same year was the Rev. Herbert Marsh, whose "Translation of Michaelis," and "Politics of Great Britain," rank him in the first class of theologians and politicians.

Mr. Jones has always confessed the advantages which

which he derived from his short residence at St. John's. At the time of his admission it enjoyed a degree of reputation which no other college in Cambridge ever attained. The greater part of the university honours were engrossed by its members, and it did not suffer from the competition of its great rival Trinity, which has in later times been at least equal to it in reputation, and * superior to it in numbers. The exertions of Dr. Powel, who was in 1765 elected master of the college, principally contributed to place it in these flourishing circumstances. Dr. Powel was one of those whom nature seems to have intended for stations of eminence and authority. With the love of power he joined all the qualities which render a man able and worthy to exercise it. His active and ambitious mind was always pushing forward to some object, and opposition to his schemes was invariably defeated by the skill with which they were planned, and the vigour with which they were executed. If to the strength and artfulness of his character he had added more pliability, if he had been able to repress that haughty consciousness of superiority which appeared in all his conduct, he might have maintained his objects without the difficulties and opposition with which he was perpetually embarassed. He was elected to the mastership by a very small majority; many who revered his abilities dreading the consequences of entrusting power to such a proud and arbitrary disposition. When he began to

* Trinity has now 548 members, St. John's 465.

govern

govern the college, he found it torn by divisions, and suffering under all the evils which must inevitably rise from them, in a body whose views should be directed with unanimity to the single point of encouraging learning and merit. His honourable ambition was not contented with remedying the abuses which prevailed, he formed and executed the design of building the reputation of the society to a height it had never before reached, and of attracting to it, from every part of the kingdom, those students which should be most distinguished by their talents and attainments. He instituted half-yearly examinations, he established prizes, and he supported, with an uniform ardour of favour, those who co-operated with his endeavours, by doing honour to themselves and to the college. His station, though its duties were numerous and important, afforded a field too narrow both for his abilities and desires. At one period of his life he enjoyed a flattering prospect of being promoted to the first dignities of the church: he had been private tutor to Charles Townshend, when he studied at Cambridge, and, when that political meteor was made Prime-minister, Mr. Jones was taught to expect the first great preferments which should be at the disposal of the Crown. His hopes were blasted in their full blossom by the sudden death of his pupil, who died master of St. John's College, in 1774. To the public he is principally known by his sermons, which display extraordinary vigour of thought and elegance of composition, and entitle him to a distinguished place among the greatest English preachers.

The distinction with which Mr. Jones had ap-

peared in the senate-house examination, rendered his progress to a fellowship easy and certain. Soon after his election, Mr. Crank, the tutor of the college, appointed him his mathematical lecturer. In this public and important situation, he enjoyed all the opportunities that he desired of extending his reputation. The lecturer of a great college, such as Trinity, is surrounded by a numerous attendance of pupils, some of whom, in general, are of distinguished abilities, and feels his exertions called forth by the powerful motives which such circumstances afford. The lectures of Mr. Jones are not dry and literal repetitions of what mere reading will supply: he has considered the subjects on which he discourses in their first principles and their detail, and presents them in the view which he has thus obtained of them: he does not therefore convey the imperfect information which is derived from those who have attempted nothing more than to enter into the sense of an author, but instructs with all the advantages of one who delivers his own conceptions. The most interesting problems in philosophy and analytics have been reviewed by him, and those which appear to have been defectively treated, are demonstrated to his pupils on new grounds. The Principia of Newton, astronomy, optics and fluxions, are the principal subjects of his mathematical lectures. His system of fluxions has always been considered as particularly valuable. The extent and importance of that branch of science, and the repeated attacks with which it has been assailed, strongly recommend it to the attention both of a mathematician and a lecturer. Mr. Jones professed

to have been guided by the light which the celebrated treatise on fluxions by Maclaurin affords; but the manner in which he has established the evidence, and applied the principles of the calculus, is equally distinguished by its novelty and its elegance, and displays the happiest mathematical genius.

Mr. Jones was, in the years 1786 and 1787, senior moderator of the university. This office is of very great importance, as the senate-house examination and the exercises in the schools are totally under the direction of the two moderators of the current and preceding years. It is generally filled by junior masters of arts, who are willing to incur the fatigue by which it is accompanied, for the reputation which rewards the able discharge of its duties. In the capacity of examiner, Mr. Jones had the happiness of being principally instrumental in introducing Dr. Paley's "Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy" into the examination. This was a regulation of very great consequence. It was not indeed the first introduction of moral philosophy into the examination, but by restricting the questions to Dr. Paley's "Principles," it directed the attention of the students to that admirable work, which, always employed on points of real importance, and by a wonderful perspicuity of reasoning familiarizing the most subtile inquiries to the most unexercised minds, is more calculated to furnish information on the momentous subject of morals, to academic readers, than any treatise which has been produced either by ancient or modern philosophers.

On the resignation of Mr. Crank, Mr. Jones was

appointed one of the two tutors of Trinity. This office, equally honourable and lucrative, he has adorned fifteen years. Within this period Trinity has overflowed with an extraordinary number of students; and in the year 1793 scarcely more than one half of the under-graduates could be received within the walls of the college. The full effect has been given to the liberality of this noble foundation, which in the candidates for its benefits acknowledges no other claim than merit, and no other incapacity than the want of it. With this attraction the reputation of the tutors has co-operated; and as great emoluments flow from their pupils, and the superior reputation of Mr. Jones has been always attended by superiority in the number of his pupils, he must necessarily, under such circumstances, have accumulated a very considerable fortune.

The opinions of Mr. Jones on the constitution of our Church and State have been the subject of much conversation, both in and out of the university, and have been by some greatly misconceived and misrepresented. It has been asserted that he is one of the supports of the remains of that school, which the example, the character and the exertions of Dr. John Jebb established thirty years ago in the university, but without foundation. Dr. Jebb was a professed Socinian, and as a proof and consequence of his faith resigned his preferments: Mr. Jones has never declared himself the advocate of that, or any other heresy, and it is expected by his friends that he will retire from the tutorship to a college living. In their political speculations, it is probable that they approach

nearer

nearer to each other. Dr. Jebb, while he recommended reform, regarded the foundations of the government as sacred, and Mr. Jones is considered, by those who have the best opportunities of judging, a follower of the old whigs, as much in their attachment to the principles of the constitution as in their ardour for civil and religious liberty.

To his political persuasions he has undoubtedly sacrificed the * mastership of Trinity. It was vacant in 1798 by the death of Dr. Postlethwaite; and his character, his abilities, his eminent services as tutor, every circumstance but that of his decided opposition to the measures of government, directed the Crown, which nominates the master, to Mr. Jones as the proper person to be appointed.

The estimate of Mr. Jones's literary character is not to be formed from his knowledge of mathematics alone. The lectures which he occasionally delivers on moral and metaphysical subjects, discover that he has extended to them the same depth and ingenuity of research which distinguish his mathematical inquiries; and he has always maintained the character of an elegant as well as of a profound scholar. The attractions of his conversation do not arise more from the variety of his knowledge and the happiness of his humour, than from the mildness, the candour, and the benevolence of his manner. His private character is in the highest degree respectable and amiable, and the best evidence of it is to be found in the universal esteem and affection of the numerous individuals with whom his public situation has in a long series of years connected him.

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* Worth 1300l. per annum.

DR. TROTTER,

PHYSICIAN TO THE FLEET.

IT has been frequently observed, that the lives of literary men are enlivened by few incidents, and therefore seldom afford any great scope for biographical remark; for variety of action is not to be expected in the closet, or in the privacy of study: a simple narrative, therefore, of their writings and opinions is all that we can hope to find in their history. The lives of medical authors more particularly exemplify this observation: as the promulgation of a new theory of disease, that supplants its predecessor, perhaps forms the most busy and enterprizing scene of a physician's labours. The practice of the art itself very much resembles the events of ordinary life; and the man who enriches himself by it, is more frequently to be considered as the fashionable gentleman than the intelligent philosopher.

The subject of the present memoir forms an exception to this observation on the general tenor of the lives of literary men; for Dr. Trotter filled a very active and conspicuous station in the naval service during the late war. He was nominated early in the year 1794 physician to the channel fleet by Earl Howe; and it may be mentioned as a circumstance honourable to both parties, that the appointment was conferred without any previous application or personal acquaintance beyond the doctor's professional reputation. That discerning officer was cautious whom he

he selected for employments to which considerable responsibility was attached, and never allowed prepossession or caprice to influence his public measures. Among medical men in the navy, where there is, perhaps, an equal proportion of talent with the profession at large, it was proper to select as physician one whose preparatory studies, extensive observation, and ample experience, had fully qualified him to discharge the difficult and important duties of this office.

Doctor Trotter is a native of Roxburghshire, in Scotland,* and received his classical and medical

* The family of this gentleman is of great antiquity in Scotland, and the name of Trotter is among the first surnames used in that country. According to tradition, their descent comes from the Earl of Marr, and they bear the boar's heads in their arms, as cadets of that ancient house. A number of the chief families are cadets of the same descent, and bear similar distinctions in their arms; such as the Nisbets of that ilk, and their alliances; Abercromby, of Birkenbey; Spottiswoode of that ilk; Gordons, of Lochinvan, and their cadets, the Chisholms, Drummonds, &c. The Trotters possessed considerable property in the Mers, and the estates of Mainside, Easter Housebyers, &c. in Roxburghshire; but following the Stuarts in the different rebellions, they ſhared the same fate with others who were attached to that unfortunate family, and were reduced to poverty and obscurity.

From an ancient manuscript still legible, the name is ſaid to have originated from the following incident: One of the family had been entrusted by his royal master (prior to Bruce) with some important embassy; he returned crowned with success, and much sooner than was expected, which made the King exclaim, at his approach, "*Well has he trotted, and Trotter henceforth shall* "*his name be.*" It is added, that he was loaded with presents, and received gifts of many lands, for executing this trust with so much ability.

N. B. *This note is taken from a book on Heraldry, printed in 1702.*

education at the college of Edinburgh. In March 1782, when very young, he was appointed surgeon in the royal navy; and he relates, in the introduction to his Observations on Scurvy, that he was the first man of his corps who was obliged to seek employment in the African trade. In this voyage he met with a new species of scurvy among the slaves, which laid the foundation for his treatise on that disease. In 1789, he was examined before the select committee of the House of Commons on the slave trade, and gave a connected and scientific evidence against that horrid traffic in human flesh.

On his return from Africa, in 1785, he settled in a market-town in the county of Northumberland, and during his residence there, he passed through the different public and private examinations at the college of Edinburgh, and obtained a Doctor's degree in 1788. The subject of his inaugural dissertation was *De ebrietate ejusque effectibus in corpus humanum.* This thesis drew warm encomiums from Dr. Cullen, and is inscribed in elegant and classical language to Sir A. Macdonald and J. Spottiswoode, Esq. Sackville-street, London. From this remote situation he was drawn by the friendship of Admiral Roddam, who lived in the neighbourhood, and was appointed to the flag-ship at Portsmouth, when that officer received the command there in 1789; at this period he published his review of the medical department of the navy; and the greater part of his proposed improvements have been adopted, to the great advantage of the public service. In 1790 a second and improved edition of Observations on Scurvy made its appearance.

ance. In this edition, our author has ingeniously made use of the pneumatic chemistry to explain the morbid phenomena in scurvy; and he undoubtedly has the honour of being the first physician who applied the new doctrines of chemistry to elucidate a diseased state of body, and to explain the action of medicines upon the constitution. In December 1793 he was appointed physician to the royal hospital at Portsmouth, and in the spring following (as we have mentioned above) physician to the fleet.

Dr. Trotter, whilst at Edinburgh, was contemporary with many young physicians, now of the first practice, and filling the most eminent stations in different countries; he was a favourite pupil with the late Dr. Cullen, to whose memory, in his second edition of Observations on Scurvy, he has dedicated the finest panegyric that has been pronounced on that venerable and illustrious professor.

But much as he revered the doctrines of his preceptor, he has deemed it no heresy to copy what was good in the Brunonian system, and to regulate his practice accordingly. His treatment of fever is founded on the principles of Brown, but without any servile adherence, and seems rather the experience of a clinical observer, than the routine of a fixed method of cure. The chapter on Typhus, in the first volume of *Medicina Nautica*, is his most finished performance as a practical writer; for in it we perceive such minute attention to every symptom and circumstance, as clearly points out the sick-bed as the only source from whence such accurate observations could be drawn.

The work now alluded to contains the history of health in the channel fleet for five years. The spirit of investigation that it discovers, has few precedents in medical writings: various translations of it have been published; and professor Hufeland has favoured the German copy or edition with a preface in no usual style of compliment. But the real value of this essay on the diseases of seamen, is to be estimated from the beneficial effects it has exhibited in the navy of this country. The prevention of disease is the chief object aimed at here; and though precepts of health are not always detailed in a regular and systematic manner, nor delivered in language every where correct, yet they are given in such a way that cannot fail to convince; and with so feeling a concern for the subject, that the work has been as earnestly read by the naval officer as by the surgeon. The Doctor has added many new and valuable facts to our stock of knowledge on the subject of contagion, and he has, without doubt, successfully combated the opinions of Dr. C. Smyth on the best means of eradicating it. A third and last volume of the *Medicina Nautica* has just been anounced in the Medical and Physical Journal.

In proof of the high estimation in which the writings of this ingenious physician are held, we may instance the many important attentions and improvements in the naval medical department which have been effected by his recommendation,* and on the conclusion

* Such as the new arrangements of officers, &c. in royal hospitals; abolition of the fine for cure of lues venerea in ships, &c.

of peace, the surgeons of the royal navy presented him with an elegant and valuable piece of plate, as a testimony of the high sense they entertained of the services he has rendered their corps.

Dr. Trotter has lately settled at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. In full possession of medical fame, we might have expected him to have chosen a more lucrative field for his practice; as the present First Lord of the Admiralty is not likely to suffer his talents to be lost to the public service of the country.

Besides his medical works, Dr. Trotter has written several poetical pieces, which have ben printed in different literary journals. A poem, entitled *Suspiria Oceani*, a monody on the death of Earl Howe, K. G. was published soon after the decease of that good man and gallant officer. We shall present our readers with the following specimens of his poetical abilities.

THE SWALLOW.

Written in May 1793, *on a Swallow entering the Ward-room of* H. M. S. VENGEANCE, *the Ship being many leagues from Land, on her Passage to the West Indies.*

Welcome hither, airy traveller,
Here to rest thy wearied wing,
Tho' from clime to clime a reveller,
Constant to returning Spring.

The first public compliment paid to Dr. Jenner came from his hands; a gold medal, from the medical officers of the navy, with the Horatian motto, " *Alba nautis, stella refuesit.*" In 1801, not fewer than 200 gin-shops were shut up in Plymouth-dock, from complaints made by him to Government on the prejudicial effects these nuisances produced on the health of the seamen.

If

If along the trackless ocean,
Thou by chance hast miss'd thy way,
I'll direct thy waving motion,
But a moment with me stay.

I have news of note, to freight thee,
Bear a wand'ring sailor's vow;
So may no dread fate await thee,
Love shall be thy pilot now.

Shun, I pray thee, gentle stranger,
Touch not Gallia's hated shore,
There are death and instant danger,
She is stain'd with royal gore.

But to happier Britain tend thee,
Where the milder virtues rove;
And this kiss, with which I send thee,
Bear it to my distant love.

Near her window fix thy dwelling,
No rude hand shall do thee wrong,
Safer far than arch or ceiling,
Delia's self shall nurse thy young.

There a thousand soft sensations,
Lull the tranquil mind to rest,
Nature there with kind persuasions,
Oft shall soothe a parent's breast.

Haste then, gentle bird of passage,
When you leave our wintry isle,
Bring me back my Delia's message,
Bring a kiss—and bring a smile.

THE

THE FURZE BLOSSOM.

Written at Portsmouth, February 1796, on a young Lady promising the Author a Bouquet, which proved to be a Sprig of Furze in Blossom.

While FLORA benumb'd in a mantle of frost,
And her tresses besprinkled with snow,
Impatient awaited the blooms she had lost,
And shew'd but a crocus or two:
Her handmaid, MYRTILLA, to pass a round joke,
As she jeer'd with a stupid dull swain,
Declar'd she could raise, by a magical stroke,
A bouquet to enliven his strain.

No sooner she spoke, than a stranger appear'd,
With simplicity mark'd on its bloom,
Like the rose-tree, it pointed a thorn for its guard,
And breath'd forth the lily's perfume.
Behold then, she cried, as she brandish'd the stem,
It will teach you a lesson so new:
From her eyes, inspiration awaken'd his theme,
And this was the moral he drew.

" Tho' bleak was the season, and rude was the spot,
" That foster'd those petals so gay;
" While the shrubs of the garden were dead and forgot,
" They gave their wild sweets to the day.
" As they parted, the tree that had nourish'd their growth,
" The desart and woodland among,
" MYRTILLA pronounc'd them the emblems of truth,
" And her Bard thus records it in song.

" Ye fair, whom the beauties of Nature can warm,
" Who court the recess of the vale,
" Yet there shall discernment unfold every charm,
" When folly and fashion shall fail.
" Then learn from the flowret, now blest in its doom,
" Tho' lately transferr'd from the waste,
" And the snow-drop, tho' often neglected to bloom,
" May be pluck'd by the fingers of Taste."

REV. RICHARD POLWHELE.

THIS gentleman, who has distinguished himself in very opposite walks of literature, and in many has acquired deserved reputation, is the son of Thomas Polwhele, Esq. of Polwhele, in Cornwall. His grandfather was high-sheriff of that county in the reign of George the First, and his family is of high antiquity there.* The paternal mansion is agreeably seated not far from the banks of the romantic Tamer; but we are informed that the estate was considerably diminished before it came into the hands of its present possessor. It is certain that the family suffered much from their loyalty in the turbulent reign of Charles the First. One of these was Dr. Degory Polwhele, fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, who was created M. D. by that university in 1660. In the Chancellor's letters for that purpose we find the following account of him:

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* William of Worcester (who made a tour into Cornwall in the year 1478) mentions the castle of Polwhele, as then in ruins. It appears from Browne Willis, that in the parliament of Westminster, 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, 1557, John Polwhele, of Polwhele, Esq. represented the county, together with John Arundel de Langheron. In the long parliament John Polwhele was a member for Tregony, in Cornwall, Sir Richard Vyvyan, Knight, his colleague. One of the Cornish topographers observes, that this place gives name to a place of eminence that flourished here before the Conquest. At this time, Drue de Polwhele was Chamberlain to William the Conqueror's Queen, as appears by a grant from her to the said Drue, which runs thus: "Drogoni de Pol- "wheel camerario meo." The Polwheles were allied to the noble families of Edgecumbe, Godolphin, and Mohun.—*Extract from Polwhele's History of Devon*, vol. ii. p. 168.

"That

"That he had from the beginning of the late unhappy troubles vigorously and faithfully served his Majesty, under the command of Ralph Lord Hopton, then Sir James Smith, in the quality of a major of horse, and continued in arms until the surrender of Pendennis castle; from whence he went to his late Majesty of blessed memory, and afterwards followed his now Majesty [Charles II.] in Holland and Flanders, and in or about the year 1650 he returned into Cornwall, his native country, where he betook himself to the study and practice of physic, &c."

Mr. Polwhele, the subject of the present memoir, was born in the year 1760, and received his education at Truro school, under the Rev. Dr. Cardew. Here he evinced the early promise of a rising genius, and wrote some poetical pieces, far beyond the usual productions of boys of the same age. Two of these were published in a quarto size even while he was at school, namely, "The Fate of Llewellyn, or, the Druid's Sacrifice, a legendary tale;" and "The Genius of Karnbre, a poem." The last piece is an ingenious flight of poetical enthusiasm, composed on a romantic hill near Truro, called Karnbre. This spot has also been consecrated by a fine ode, the composition of Dr. Wolcott, who greatly favoured the aspiring genius of young Polwhele while at Truro school, and assisted him in his classical studies, as may be seen in the biographical sketch of the Doctor in our first volume. It is to the honour of that lively writer that two such ornaments of that county as our poet, and Opie the painter, should have been assisted by his judgment and taste.

In 1778, Mr. Polwhele was entered a commoner of Christ Church College, Oxford, where he regularly kept his terms until he was admitted a student in

7 civil

civil law; but he quitted the university without taking any degree. He appears after this to have resided occasionally at Bath, where he contracted a particular acquaintance with Mrs. Macaulay the historian, and with the ingenious Edmund Rack. Of the latter he wrote a good memoir, which is inscribed in Collinson's History of Somersetshire.

In the year 1782 he entered into holy orders, and served for some time the living of Lamorran, near Truro, where he married a Miss Warren. Soon after forming this connexion he removed to the curacy of Kenton, in Devonshire, near Powderham castle, the seat of Lord Viscount Courtenay. Here he resided about ten years, and produced the greatest and certainly the best part of his numerous publications, as well in prose as in verse. It was here also that he planned the history of Devonshire.

This great and truly important county has been singularly unfortunate in its topographers and historians. Risdon, who flourished at the beginning of the seventeenth century, made a survey of Devon, tolerably correct for the time, and curious, but wretchedly written, and too brief to be satisfactory. The work remained in manuscript till the year 1714, when Edmund Curle, the bookseller, published a garbled edition of it, in two volumes octavo. Mr. William Chapple, steward to the late Lord Courtenay, undertook, about thirty years ago, to publish a correct edition of the text, collated from the various MSS. he could procure, with numerous notes. Chapple, however, though a very industrious man, had neither judgment nor genius. He collected nu-

merous materials which it was not in his power to digest, and when he died, in 1781, the whole was in such confusion that it was impossible to arrange any part of it. What had been printed before his death, amounting to fourteen sheets in quarto, were published by the bookseller to indemnify him for the expences of paper and printing. After this the ingenious Mr. Badcock appears to have engaged in the description and history of his native county. How far he proceeded cannot be now ascertained; but we believe that his progress was inconsiderable, as his health at the time was much impaired, and few papers on the subject were found after his decease. Mr. Polwhele, when he conceived the idea of a similar plan, certainly possessed great andvantages: his vicinity to Powderham, where a vast collection of books and manuscripts necessary to the design were treasured up, was a matter of no small consequence. The gentry of the county were all anxious to see due honour paid to their native province, and the kingdom was, moreover, in a state of tranquillity and prosperity. In addition to these circumstances, his prospectus was evidently the production of a man of learning, discrimination, and genius. His talents as a writer, though not as an antiquary, were already well known, and the printed queries which he circulated among the gentry and clergy, were admirably calculated to elicit very complete and accurate information. His list of subscribers we believe soon filled; and many noblemen and gentlemen generously engaged to furnish plates for the illustration of the work at their own expence.

But while the history was *in petto*, an unfortunate circumstance of a domestic nature occurred, and for a time impeded his progress. The author was deprived of a beloved wife, which so affected him, that he removed with his children from a spot where his happiness had received so deep a wound, to Truro, in order to seek for the balm of consolation among his friends. Time and philosophy, with the aid of Christianity, at length reconciled him to his loss; and he regained sufficient fortitude to return to Kenton, where he once more engaged in his great undertaking. The conduct of the late excellent Bishop Newton, of Bristol, was exactly similar: "When I have sustained any deep loss, (says he) I always plunge into study, as the only way to prevent despondency."

But our author did not confine himself wholly to genealogical enquiries, antiquarian elucidations, and topographical descriptions: he relieved his mind by pursuits of a lighter and pleasanter cast, and such as we are inclined to believe were more congenial to his taste and inclination. But we shall here pass over the notice of his other works, and confine ourselves for the present to the history of his laborious compilation. To collect and digest the multifarious mass of articles necessary for a county history, at a time when composition is so generally a matter of criticism, requires no ordinary degree of skill and patience. Of the former quality we are conscious Mr. Polwhele possesses a sufficient degree; but it has been said that in the latter he was, on the whole, rather deficient, a circumstance which led him into many literary disputes and contentions.

In the mean time, a quarto volume, entitled "Historical Views of Devonshire," being the first of an intended series, which was to be entirely unconnected with the great work, made its appearance. This also was a very strange measure; for if the matter contained in the smaller collection was of any interest at all, it ought not to have been separated from the general history, and if not, this publication was needless and imprudent. The reception which this volume met with did not, we understand, answer the author's expectation, and nothing has been said on the subject of a continuation.

In 1794 appeared the second volume of the History, handsomely printed from the Exeter press, and adorned with some very good plates.

A very sufficient reason was assigned for publishing this volume before the first, because it is merely chorographical; whereas the other being historical, it was necessary that the chronological detail of events, and the biography of characters, should come down as low as possible.

Thus far the proceeding adopted was approved; but of the execution of the work different opinions were formed. That it displayed ingenuity and a talent at description was generally admitted; but some supposed that it was not sufficiently minute for the magnitude of the volume, and they augured nothing favourable from the specimen now produced. The Devonshire historian seemed also to be too closely wedded to a visionary hypothesis, founded upon no authority of credit, and strengthened only by certain vague resemblances. This was, that Danmonium was

originally colonized by adventurers from the east. The notion was worked up with no small degree of ingenuity, and with that glow of colouring which a poetical imagination can lay on in such a manner as to convince those of its truth, who are more apt to pronounce according to their feelings than their judgment.

The fondness which Mr. Polwhele evinced for this favourite but fanciful hypothesis, has proved of considerable disservice to his reputation as an antiquary, and by drawing down upon him the attacks of the critics, it has certainly done no good to the credit of his history.

Since the publication of his second volume, the former part of the first has appeared, which has, we believe, given much more satisfaction. In this, however, he has betrayed strong symptoms of dissatisfaction at the conduct of many Devonshire gentlemen, particularly of some who have published descriptive accounts of particular places. We conceive that the author had no just reason to complain of this conduct, unless those gentlemen professedly published with a view of injuring the general history of Devonshire; and this does by no means appear to be the case. Every one has a right to give to the public an account of his own town or parish, in a small form, without being under the slighteſt obligation to ask permission of an author who was compiling a ponderous history of the county, or of communicating their collections to be moulded into his work.

To this part of the history is prefixed, by permission, a neat dedication to the King; and we sincerely hope

hope that the ingenious historian will experience some substantial marks of the royal bounty, to which, on many accounts, he is certainly entitled.

The remainder of this important undertaking has not yet made its appearance; but notwithstanding this, with a precipitancy which can hardly be deemed prudent, the author has announced a "History of his native County."

The rank in which Mr. Polwhele stands the most distinguished is undoubtedly that of a poet. Some account has already been given of his juvenile performances, and his subsequent labours sufficiently prove that he possesses all that liveliness of imagination, fertility of invention, variety of literature, and command of language, which are necessary to those who wish to cultivate the muses with success. It must, however, be allowed that all his productions are not equally vigorous or elegant. His translations of Theocritus, Bion, and Moschus, ought certainly to be distinguished as among the best versions of ancient poets in our language. Mr. Polwhele, in respect to these, has shewn herein as much poetical feeling and judgment as sound learning. The notes, which make up the entire of the second volume, are appropriate, curious, and entertaining.

Among his original performances, the *English Orator* is the principal in point of magnitude; but it possesses different degrees of merit. As a whole, however, it is not likely to secure any lasting degree of fame. The rules are in general judicious; but rules for eloquence are read to better advantage in

Quintilian, Fenelon, or Blair, than in a didactic poem. The examples adduced to illustrate the precepts are by no means delineated with that accuracy or beauty which are necessary in poetical description, to relieve the tediousness produced by formal rules. There are, however, some fine touches in this work, and the whole manifests a truly classical taste and judgment. The author's description of his academical life, in the fourth book, is one of the best passages in the whole poem.

"———In those avenues, that erst
" O'er-arch'd a BAGOT,* (proud to embower such worth,
" Such virtues in their venerable ſhade)
" There, musing oft on future scenes, he form'd
" The prospect of ideal good to flow
" From his impassion'd preaching. Nor unmark'd
" His decent fame, nor unreview'd his charge;
" That, not at distance from his natal spot,
" Beyond the woody Tamar, Fancy trac'd;
" And, as she spread the glowing tint, it seem'd
" No fairy picture: for young Hope reliev'd
" With golden rays each figure Fancy drew."

The collection of "Poems by Gentlemen of Devon and Cornwall, in two volumes, 8vo." was, as we understand, edited by our poet, several of whose pieces enrich the work, which does great credit to the respective authors, as well as to the editor.

But by far the best of Mr. Polwhele's poetical productions is that entitled "The Influence of Local Attachment," concerning which, as a descriptive and a philosophical poem, there was but one opinion among

* The late worthy Bishop of St. Asaph, at that time Dean of Christ Church.

the

the different periodical critics who pronounced judgment upon it. This charming production, which appeared in 1796, came out anonymously; and though it had previously received the strong approbation of such writers as Dr. Darwin, Mr. Hayley, and Miss Seward, the author, in his advertisement, dated from Oxford, called it the production of "an unfledged poet." There seems to have been some degree of affectation in this timidity of expression; for the author had often ventured openly into the literary world with his name affixed to performances which he could not but know were far inferior to this.

We shall here pass over the rest of Mr. Polwhele's poetical pieces, with just observing, that in his sonnets and his odes, particularly that to the "Genius of Danmonium," in the volume of "Essays by a Society of Gentlemen at Exeter," he has succeeded most happily.

The mention of this volume of essays obliges us to take notice of Mr. Polwhele's concern in it, and of the squabble that unfortunately ensued.

A very agreeable literary society was formed at Exeter, consisting of some gentlemen of that city and neighbourhood, eminent for their talents. At their head, we believe, was the very respectable and ingenious Dr. Downman. Among other rules of the society, one was, that each member should produce in his turn a paper on some moral or literary subject, to be read at the meeting. In course of time these papers accumulated to a considerable number, and it was resolved to select from them a sufficient quantity

tity to compose a handsome octavo volume. The volume accordingly came out in 1796, but by some means or other a pretty severe *critique* upon it appeared in one of the periodical journals, before the work was actually publifhed. In this performance the essays of Mr. Polwhele were highly spoken of, while those of others were as strongly censured; and one gentleman in particular, who had contributed some papers on Devonshire scenery and antiquities, was reproached as having acted treacherously to Mr. Polwhele, to whom he had promised these communications. This produced disagreeable altercations in the society, and Mr. Polwhele being marked as the reviewer, though in fact he was not, withdrew himself in great dudgeon. Some communications passed upon the subject in the Gentleman's Magazine, and Mr. Polwhele, who has the pen of a ready writer, printed a pretty sharp letter addressed to a college friend, in which he animadverted on the president and some other gentlemen by name, in a manner which shewed that he had for some time considered himself as ill-used by the society.

In 1795, the late Bishop Buller, of Exeter, presented our author, without any solicitation, to the vicarage of Manaccan, near Helston, in Cornwall, where he now resides. He is also in the commission of the peace for that county, and both as a parish-priest and a magistrate, we are assured his conduct is most exemplary. In the course of the same year, Mr. Polwhele married the daughter of Captain Robert Tyrell, of Exmouth, the cure of which place he served

served some time before the Bishop of Exeter gave him the living of Manaccan. On the subject of divinity he has published two volumes of discourses, and some single sermons; but though he is master of a clear and even of an elegant style, yet we are of opinion that these compositions want strength, pathos and energy. Mr. Polwhele has also figured a little in theological controversy, against the Rev. Dr. Hawker, a beneficed clergyman of Plymouth. The Doctor, it seems, gave offence to our author by preaching at several churches during an excursion into the west of Cornwall, in 1779, where his talents as an orator brought him many hearers. This circumstance, in addition to his high Calvinistical sentiments, procured him the honour of a warm expostulatory letter from the vicar of Manaccan, who charged him both with want of orthodoxy and regularity. It does not appear, however, that the Doctor preached in fields, barns, or meeting-houses; and as to his doctrinal sentiments, it would require some considerable skill to prove them at variance with the articles and homilies of the church. If he exhibited zeal in his tour into Cornwall, and took the advantage of his popularity to "preach in season and out of season," we are humbly of opinion that he is more worthy of commendation than of censure: he encroached not upon any man's field of action, and it has not been proved that he intruded into Mr. Polwhele's parish.

Dr. Hawker replied in a temperate and truly Christian manner: the Cornish vicar rejoined in a more

severe

severe tone than before; and we are sorry to add, that the dispute at length became personal.

Mr. Polwhele has since published a pamphlet, which we cannot but disapprove as a very unseasonable performance, entitled, "Anecdotes of Methodism," selected from the long-forgotten work of Dr. Lavington, Bishop of Exeter. No good is likely to be done by such publications, which seem more calculated to make sceptics and libertines than serious Christians.

The following is, we believe, a pretty correct list of the author's works:

1. The Fate of Lewellyn; or, the Druid's Sacrifice: a legendary tale.

2. The Genius of Karnbre: a poem.

3. The Spirit of Fraser to General Burgoyne: an ode.

4. The Death of Hilda: an American tale.

5. An Ode to Mrs. Macaulay, on her Birth-day.

6. The Castle of Tintadgel; or, the Captive Princess of Denmark: an ode.

7. The Isle of Poplars: an ode. *(Published in Rack's Essays.)*

8. Pictures from Nature, in twelve Sonnets, and the Lock transformed: an elegy.

9. The English Orator: a didactic poem, in four Books.

10. The Idyllia of Theocritus, Bion and Moschus, and the Elegies of Tyrtæus; with Dissertations and Notes, 2 vols. 8vo.

11. Two Volumes of Discourses on different Subjects. 8vo.

12. A Discourse preached December 30, 1792.

13. Historical Views of Devonshire. Vol. I.

14. The History of Devonshire. Vol. I. Part I. and Vol. II. folio.

15. Biographical Memoirs of Mr. Rack, in Collinson's Somerset.

16. A Discourse preached at Manaccan, August 27, 1797.

17. A Letter to Dr. Hawker.

18. A fecond Letter to Dr. Hawker.

19. Anecdotes of Methodism, &c.

20. A Letter to a College Friend. 8vo.

21. The Influence of Local Attachment with respect to Home; in seven books: odes, and other poems. 2 vols. 8vo.

22. The Old English Gentleman: a poem. 8vo.

23. Sketches in verse, with prose Illustrations. 8vo.

24. The Unsexed Females: a poem, addressed to the Author of the Pursuits of Literature. 8vo.

25. Grecian Prospects: a poem. 8vo.

26. Sir Aaron; or, the Flights of Fanaticism: a poem in the spirit of Anti-jacobinism, for 1800.

27. An Assize Sermon, preached at Bodmin, Aug. 4, 1801. 12mo.

28. Scripture Characteristics. 8vo.

THOMAS HARRIS, ESQ.

THIS gentleman was born in the year 1749; and, after receiving a good classical education, was bred by his father to an extensive line of business, in which the good sense, conduct, and judgment, that he has manifested in more difficult and trying circumstances, must have ensured eminence and success, had not a more powerful bias seduced him to other objects. His filial duty, however, adjoined to an early and invariable probity, prevented him from following the bent of his inclinations by any sacrifices of his honour in quitting the path which an indulgent parent had chalked out. In the brief annals of his commercial engagements, there is nothing upon record that can throw a blush over the history of his youth: a circumstance not very usual, where one employment, uncongenial to the mind, is left by a stripling for a self-chosen, and favourite pursuit.

The British Theatre was, perhaps, in the fullest

blaze of its lustre and glory about the time that young Harris was in preparation for the character of a British merchant.

Garrick, its grand luminary, and surrounded by some of the brightest stars that ever shone upon the stage, was then in the zenith of his reputation, and of the talents which produced it; and the junior Harris was just at the point of age when the magic of such a constellation, with the unrivalled sun in the centre, beamed most powerfully upon his fancy. Borne away on the wing of enthusiasm, he broke through the cold ordinary forms of gradual advance, and introduced himself to the private acquaintance of those whose public displays of a singular and happy genius had excited his plaudits and won his heart. Of a glowing fancy, amiable manners, and gentle address, such a youth did not find it difficult to gain the notice of the lovers of the drama, who, like himself, had paid nightly homage at the shrine of the British Roscius and his satellites.

There is, perhaps, nothing so full of charm for a warm, juvenile heart; nothing that so kindles imagination into its richest glow, as the representations of the theatre. We transfer the generous actions and great atchievements of the hero and heroine from the supposed real and original actors, to a person who only studies them by rote, as so many lessons to be performed. We are disposed to believe, that those who can attractively pronounce sentiments so elevated, and deliver themselves in language so eloquent, must be the very models of perfection. We can, in early

early life, scarcely persuade ourselves that such gifted beings are of mortal mould: their very robes, their looks, their attitudes, become consecrated; and when we are first admitted to the delights and distinctions of conversation with those high and privileged orders, we feel ourselves alternately enlarged and diminished in their presence; we experience, perhaps, a sensation somewhat similar to his, who, for the first time, is unexpectedly granted the indulgence of a private audience with the mighty potentates of the earth, after having seen them adorned with all the insignia of royalty, and seated on their thrones in a magnificent apartment.

Under such influences, young Harris followed his favourite demi-gods of the scene, from their public exhibitions, to their private societies, Tom's coffee-house, the Shakespeare tavern; and the club-rooms were more endeared to him on account of his finding there the great objects of his research and admiration, than if he had been permitted to associate with the aforesaid real emperors and kings—yea, with all their pageantry and pomps about them; and the mock monarchs, who assumed the regal honours for the evening, reigned more completely paramount in his vivid imagination. But his scenic passions were chiefly absorbed in that great centre of attraction, Garrick himself. The performances of this astonishing man drew him, almost exclusively, from the contemplation of every other. He had the taste to feel, and the discernment to perceive, that this was the august luminary who was the unrivalled lord of the theatrical ascendant;

ascendant; and that he fed, like the sun himself, every other planet of his sphere. Young Harris was a constant attendant at the theatre on the nights of this great actor's performance: and yet, in the midst of this devotion of his evenings, his attention to commercial concerns was by day still indefatigable and unabated; but the rage for the diversions of the play-house, and a habit of gratifying it, soon carried all before it: like the serpent of Aaron, it swallowed up every lesser object, and our enamorato was induced to relinquish the most advantageous prospects in mercantile concerns, to embark his property, and devote his abilities wholly to the theatre. In common minds, this speculation would have been to change a substance for a shadow; but, at a very early period, this young adventurer understood not only the bias but the energies of his character;—a rare endowment; and that which would have been romantic, and perhaps ruinous, to a more frivolous mind, was, in his, only a kind of presage of what would result from an undeviating application of his talents and fortune, in a scheme more favourable to the bent of his natural inclinations. Accordingly we find Mr. Harris, in the year 1768, contracting with the executors of John Rich for the purchase of Covent-garden theatre, for the sum of 60,000l.; an enterprize which, from a young man who had not even yet attained his one-and-twentieth year, was looked upon as bold and extraordinary. There are some minds, however, which, as it were intuitively, know their vigour as well as their inclination; and while others are trembling,

either from fear or love, or balancing between both, at what they predict *must* be the consequence of a supposed rash measure, such minds keep the poise of their characters, proceed undauntedly in the even tenor of their way, and even mix a sound judgment and cautious policy with an adventurous and daring spirit.

The truth of this remark was illustrated in a most singular manner by Mr. Harris, who, soon after the purchase, partly from deference to the opinion and solicitude of friends, and partly from a modest opinion of himself, invited some well-known colleagues to share the labours and fortunes of his enterprize.

His auxiliaries, if auxiliaries were indeed necessary, could not have been more judiciously selected. Messrs. Colman, Rutherford, and Powell, were the chosen. The first, to great learning, adjoined a passion for the scenes, that aspired to be at once proprietor, author, and manager; a passion which made him sacrifice, and with much more temerity than Mr. Harris, very ample, and indeed very illustrious dependencies. The last of this memorable trio brought with him a genius, which, when kept within its due bound, and not driven from its natural direction, was calculated to make even Garrick himself totter on his throne; and which, indeed, did actually induce that, still, upon the whole, unrivalled sovereign of the stage, to resume the sceptre that he had laid down, and to resume it with a trembling hand.

It is impossible to revive the name of the extraordinary man who could thus kindle the flame of jealousy in the breast of Roscius so fiercely, as to hurry him from a distant climate, in a state of imperfect health, purely in order to extinguish by eclipsing it:—it is impossible, we say, to bring once more into notice the interesting and ill-fated POWELL, even were he less in connexion than he is with the subject of the present memoir, without pouring forth to his never-fading merit the warmest effusion of a heart, which is indebted to him for a thousand emotions that no other actor on the British scene, in the *class* of those emotions, could so powerfully excite. His genius, though obvious to every auditor, is difficult of description. It was not the affectation of feeling: it was not the operation of an artist. The cause and the effect were alike the work of nature—of nature in her sweetest and most captivating simplicity. The sorrow which he communicated to the bosom of an auditor, was secondary to what melted his own: the tears which he brought from the eyes of others were but counterparts of those which wetted his own cheek. He could not be strictly said to be *acting* a part; he was exhibiting himself, as acted *upon*, under different influences. Every body around him seemed more or less a mechanic: and the very best of his associates, while engaged with him in the same scene, and who figured, always respectably, sometimes highly, on other occasions, appeared to fade away in his presence, as shadows fleeting from the sun. His superior genius, the genius of nature, made them stand awed

and

and diminished *till they rebuked themselves*: for, amidst all this display of genuine sensibility, Powell was so truly the friend of man, that his bosom was too well stored with every sweet and amiable quality to inflict a voluntary wound on any one. Every endearing power, and every grace of nature, was so entirely an inmate of his heart, that there was no room left in it for the base idea of envy, or of strife; and the sensibility above-mentioned was so absolutely the effect of unsophisticated feeling, that the writer of this article has seen it excited almost beyond bearing, when Powell, as an auditor, has heard much inferior performers deliver those sentiments lamely, which that heaven-born actor could so much more touchingly have expressed. But how, indeed, should it be otherwise? the melodious sounds which poured from his lips, the soft lustre which beamed, in gentle radiance, from his eyes, the impassioned glow, which, in describing the power of a generous action, burned on his cheek; and the indignant terrors which agitated his frame, and trembled in his tones, while marking his scorn of a villain, were not in him, as in most other performers, the laborious effect of long *training* for a part; he was not an actor made up to last *for that night only*, out of the shreds and patches of numberless bungling copies of bad originals—here a scrap of one, there of another; the stride of this, the stare of that, the stamp of a third, and the mouthing of a fourth; to all of which characteristics we could affix appropriate names, in the lists of a new school as well as the old, were it not invidious. At once the child and the

favourite of nature, and blessed with all the happiest lineaments and attributes of his parent, the *occasion* had but to offer itself to this her darling son, and the divine mother appeared to look, move and charm through his organ. His sweet and amiable disposition, the unfailing integrity of his friendship, his assuasive manners, the unaffected purity of his honesty, and the simplicity of his affectionate heart; his disdain of every thing base, his enthusiasm of every thing noble, constituted his own character: to these interior qualifications were added a most touching countenance, a gentle deportment, a melodious voice, and a look full of tenderness, and love, and truth, and honour. Is it, therefore, to be wondered at, that, in performing any character which *assimilated* to these, he moved, engaged and enraptured the heart, beyond any other actor upon the stage? How should it be otherwise, when a man acts from himself? Powell might be said, in the language of the theatre, to be *his own double.* It was at one and the same time Jaffier and Powell, Powell and Philaster, Honeywood, in the Good-natured Man, and Powell. In short, wherever the faithful friend, the tender lover, the affectionate father, the obedient child, or the sympathizing philanthropist, were to be represented, he had but to resort to appropriate sentiments in his own bosom, and to describe certain proportions of himself. All were but yielding to the impulses as irresistible as unresisted, of the loving kindness that wanted nothing but suitable event and circumstance to be called forth from his own feeling heart! Whenever

Powell

Powell failed, it was in attempting to represent a person utterly unlike himself; and his greatest miscarriage was in parts that formed no feature in his own character; so that his very defects as an hero were so many proofs of his excellencies as a man. Perhaps Mr. Powell might, in some respects, be considered as both an exception and a contrast to Mr. Garrick. The latter held it as a principle, that the perfection of theatric representation was to deceive the audience into feeling, but very rarely to feel one's-self; and that no longer than while an actor could govern his own sensibility, or give currency to the *art* which passed as such, by means of this self-dominion, or by skilfully counterfeiting nature, could he arbitrate the emotions and passions of his hearers—and he is said to have formed his general practice on this precept. In a mind of such almost universal powers, and such extraordinary flexibility, such an actor might do much; but we should suspect that he violated the rule by the example. Perhaps, Mr. Garrick was the most successful when he forgot all laws and maxims but such as rose spontaneously out of that grand code, which, written in our bosoms by the Great Legislator, bids us smile with those that rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be this as it may, nothing was elaborated in the genius of Powell; and if the first display of consummate art in Garrick astonished *his* first audience in Goodman's-fields, in imitating the hypocrisy and ambition of Richard; benign exhibitions of nature were productive of equal effect on, and more heartfelt delight to, the first auditors of Powell,

in the interesting and amiable Philaster Yet we by no means desire to run these two great pillars of the English stage into parallels. The powers of the one, though exquisite, were limited; the talents of the other were almost unbounded: the lustre of Powell is to be gathered from parts; that of Garrick from nearly a universal radiance. The first may be considered—if, with feelings of reverence we may be permitted to compare things human and divine—as several of the smaller but most brilliant stars, collected into a constellation, irradiating, and filling the scene with beams of the most touching and tender kind: the last, as extinguishing all his spots in the intensity of his splendour, and spreading the light and health of a majestic genius over the whole expanse of the theatric hemisphere.

Such were the powerful columns which Mr. Harris added to the edifice of his theatrical property: and he continued to give strength to the foundation and beauty to the superstructure for a considerable period: yet, sometimes, when they are formed of the best hearts and most able heads, they weaken the building they were intended to cement and sustain. Partnership in wit, and the ingenious arts, is, perhaps, less likely than any other to hold long together: as a proof of which it is a very curious fact, that, in this diffidence of his own judgment, and this submission to the apprehensions of his friends, Mr. Harris nearly involved the ruin of the theatre; and although few people could write so well as Colman, or perform so well as Powell, and although Rutherford and Harris were alike sensible

of

of the claims and talents of both these coadjutors, no brilliant success attended the house, nor could any business be carried on with that prompt decision, or undivided spirit, necessary to great designs and adequate exertion, till Mr. Harris had bought out two of his colleagues, and found himself in the free and uncontrouled exercise of his own excellent judgment in the conduct of the whole. It was before an unweildy concern under the influence of too many masters; and the heads of great houses are seldom in such union, as to produce from a consent in the parts a completeness in the whole. Some opposition of authority, or some clash of interest or opinion, is constantly happening to clog the wheels of that machine, which should always be kept in harmonious movement. It was now

"A mighty maze, but not without a plan."

A single judgment, and *that* sound, was now alone to be consulted, and a general improvement of the drama, with a mind disposed to encourage the genius, which he had the acuteness to discover, joined to an elegant classical taste, and a most liberal disdain of expence on every public occasion, with an uncommon degree of readiness and activity to avail himself of local as well as permament objects, has fully shown his competency to the undertaking. By these means he has not only gratified the taste of the public, but so effectually, and invariably secured its good will, that we believe not a single riot has happened at his theatre, from his first taking the management in his own hands, to the present moment. This wise,

 manly,

manly, and respectable conduct has not only secured him the steadfast patronage of the Sovereign, but, being joined by a zealous and unshaken loyalty, has warmly attached his Majesty to the personal interest of Mr. Harris, and which has proved highly advantageous to the property. About sixteen years ago, however, he judiciously appointed an acting manager, and in nominating Mr. Lewis to that situation, he relieved himself of a considerable part of the Herculean labour he had so long, and so well sustained. By means of this auxiliary, he likewise secured one of the most able performers on the British theatre, and the unvarying attachment of a most worthy man. It has been erroneously reported, that Mr. Lewis had purchased something less than a quarter division of the theatre; but the fact is, that he has not at present any part of the property. With equal fallacy has it been represented, that Messrs. Martindale and White, who married the daughters of Powell, were joint managers and proprietors; for neither of those gentlemen have any manner of concern in the direction, nor have they more than one quarter share of the property.

It is impossible for any man to have been more diligent to woo the favour of the town than Mr. Harris. The combined powers of novelty and attention, and every popular engine have been put into motion to accomplish his great object——the amusement of the public: in return of which, as a convincing proof that he did not woo in vain, it is impossible for any manager to have been more liberally rewarded. In-

dulgence

dulgence acts upon a generous mind only as a stimulus: within the past twelve months, reckoning from the close of the season preceding the last, without taking the present into consideration, no less than five-and twenty new performers were introduced on the boards of Covent-garden theatre, and fourteen dramatic pieces were in the same space of time brought before the curtain. Thus it was, that the proprietors and the public maintained a kind of honourable and friendly equipoise: and each might be said, "to be at once indebted and discharged." Hence it is considered, that from the constant encreasing success, and from Mr. Harris's having invariably expended a great part of the profit in the enlargement and improvement of his theatre, that the property is now of treble the value of the original purchase: and certainly the public in general, as well as the other proprietors in particular, are indebted to his skill, activity, address, and spirited liberality, for these several advantages. Nor is he less diligent or judicious in the selection of his performers; who are, in general, not only worthy of the place in which they act, but of the poets whose writings they personify, and of the audiences, who are not more ready to allow merit than to reward it.

It would be entering too wide a field, to go, at length, into the juvenile history of the temporary connexions of almost any young man placed in the predicament of Mr. Harris. Gay, animated, interesting, and amiable, it would be next to a miracle, that a stripling, with power and property at command, and

thrown *upon himself*, should, so far as regards those unfixed inclinations that float on the surface of the character, in youth's hey-day, be found averse to some of the imprudences to which such qualities incite, even if they do not impel the youthful heart; nor will it be expected, even by the most rigorous, that, exposed to almost incalculable temptations, such a heart should have remained impregnable, or invulnerable. The combined powers of beauty, wit, and pleasure, are all in arms against a young, and indeed, an old man's correctness, in such a situation, and form, altogether, a phalanx which

"Scarce the firm philosopher can scorn."

Most young men meet with the *trials* of Hercules; but few, in the moments of temptation, are governed by his choice; yet, it should be remembered, that the son of Alcides himself, when assailed by the contending goddesses, was long in dubious balance between them: and that, although he decided at last in favour of virtue, the allurements of pleasure were not resisted without many efforts, which demanded all the strength and energy that the fable gives to the mind and person of this young hero.

"Much did the view divide his wavering mind:
"Now glow'd his breast with generous thirst of fame;
"Now love of ease to softer thoughts inclin'd
"His yielding soul, and quenched the rising flame:"

If then the hero of our immediate narrative, amidst a hundred assailing goddesses, thus assembled as it were in battle array before him, and in what has been deemed their theatre of pleasure, and always abound-

ing,

ing, we fear, with some of her votaries ; if we say, that though not altogether unsubdued, he did not suffer any dishonourable mark to faften, like the hand-writing upon the wall, a ftigma on his character ; if his conduct did not leave any ignominious scar, he has more to boaft than thousands who have been environed by far less difficulty and danger. Neither envy nor malice—though both are always at work on public characters, and often most virulently on the most worthy—have been able to fix any indelible stain on that part of Mr. Harris's life, which the historian who has any candour always feels the most repugnance to imprint on his page. Nor, indeed, will such historians delight to dwell on what is probably more regretted in mature life, by the aggressors themselves, than by either their friends or their enemies. A generous biographer, having pointed out to his readers the foibles, whether of youth or age, and marked them as exceptionable and indefensible, will be contented with having so discharged his duty, and of letting a record of them remain as a warning to others, who may be involved in equal perils, whether from the internal tenderness of their own hearts, or from external circumstances: after which he will hasten to those parts of character, which confer more honour and happiness on the individual, and are of more importance, in the way of emulative example, to society. If he knows how to judge others by himself, he will feel even relieved from the weight which ever hangs upon an ingenuous heart while detained by the most irksome parts of the historical

torical office. He will pass on, with a freshness and renovation of spirit, to enumerate and display those persons and things, which unite happy talents with a right application of them; and which at once chasten and harmonize the too often jarring powers of love, friendship, industry, and genius, with honour, health, fame and felicity. For a very long series of years Mr. Harris has been engaged in a delightful round of domestic and social affections. The first class, always the most near and dear to a man, have blessed him both as a husband and a father; and the last have associated him in the bonds of friendship with many of the best and greatest ornaments of their country.

We cannot mention the *home*-felt comforts which Mr. Harris enjoys in his own family, without paying a brief but zealous tribute to the principal source from whence they are derived. The marriage of Mr. Harris with Miss Newton, has realized, it is said, Thomson's fascinating description of domestic felicity. The general report of this lady, received from the best and most unequivocal authority, in what respects the discharge of her relative duties, and the particular record of her many amiable and attaching qualities, made to the author of this article, by a friend "now to the dust gone down," constitute a most inestimable character.

"If there ever lived a woman,"—said the deceased friend alluded to, and who spake on the daily-collected testimony of many years— "if there ever lived a woman, who, to softness of manners, and "gentleness of heart, united power of understanding and energy "of mind: with qualities to create love, to secure friendship, and "to fix the principles of both in dispositions less steady, perhaps, "than

"than her own; and if there ever was a female qualified for "performing the strongest as well as the tenderest domestic rela- "tions, and while others might change, remain herself the same, "I do verily believe Mrs. Harris to be that woman."

With respect to the friendships of Mr. Harris, it may naturally be supposed, that a comparatively long life, passed in the centre of a vast metropolis, and at the head of one of its most elegant and rational amusements, which he still conducts with a spirit of perseverance that forms a remarkable trait in his character, must have mixt him with all ranks and orders of society; and that, possessing powers both of conversation and argument, his company has been much coveted, as well by the lively as the profound, the grave as the gay. To select, from the long list of his contemporaries, such only as were, or are, remarkable for their wit or their wisdom, their private integrity or their public services, or, for a happy mixture of all these, would afford a gratifying pleasure to the author of this memoir, as well as to the public; since it would exhibit a history of the theatre and drama, of the poets and performers who have sustained, and the patrons who have promoted them; blended with the most remarkable characters that have figured on his own stage, or on the stage of the world, for the past thirty years. And without borrowing a single anecdote or reflection from any former biographer in this memoir-loving age, we have not a doubt but that such a narrative might be rendered sufficiently original, curious and interesting. This pleasure being denied us, we can at present only mention slightly a very few circumstances and personages.

It

It would be great negligence to omit observing, that to the early intimacy of Mr. Harris with Mr. Sheridan, the public is indebted, indirectly, for the dramatic entertainment it has derived from the pen of the last-named highly-gifted being; since it was to Mr. Harris's intreaty that Mr. Sheridan first turned his richly-stored mind to the theatre; with what effect is universally known.

These two gentlemen, in the progress of their connexion with each other, attempted to put the theatres of Drury-lane and Covent-garden upon a plan of amity. They thought it no way necessary, either to their private interest, or to public amusement, that the ancient system of jealousy and hostility should any longer prevail; but that a friendly intercourse of generous emulation and friendly assistance, correspondent with the sentiment of good-will in their own hearts, might be eſtabliſhed. Accordingly, they arranged with their respective partners, for their mutual and joint interest. They purchased the opera-house also conjointly, by which union their property as well as their persons appeared, for a considerable time, inseparable.

The mighty and almoſt unbounded powers of Sheridan, however, could not long be confined to theatres: the sphere of the drama, although he was confessed to be, even in the dawn of his radiance, and although he still continues, modernly speaking, its most brilliant orb, seemed too narrow for the display of his genius: yet, certainly, it is "devoutly to be wished" he could have been persuaded to have

shared

shared the senate with the stage; at least, that if one possessed, by favour, his deeper contemplation, the other might have been ranked in the list of his more frequent amusements. The writer of this article has attentively watched his entrance into public life, and, step by step, attended his progress both as a poet and politician. In each of those characters his admiration of talents

"Equal to both, and arm'd for either field,"

has followed his exertions: but the biographer of Mr. Harris will reckon it not amongst the least of the blessings of peace, if in that pause of politics—that deep, and, it is to be hoped, very long recess of parliamentary duty—which the late pacific treaty allows,* Mr. S. should be prompted again to woo the muses, who will be sure to grant his suit; and that he may once more be induced, since he will now have the opportunity—(he has long had the power—)

"To bid the reign commence
"Of rescued Nature, and reviving Sense;
"To chase the charms of sound, the pomps of show,
"For useful mirth and salutary woe:
"Bid senic virtue form the rising age,
"And truth diffuse her radiance from the stage."

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* A modern author, describing the present state of the theatres, has given the following severe but true *receipt* to make a modern comedy; and at the close of his recipe, he pays a just compliment to the genius, while he includes as just a complaint on the desertion of Sheridan. The passage is extremely appropriate to what has already been said of that gentleman. After the author of the Gleanings has advised the dramatist to give his hero

——"All the bully air,
"Croud trick on trick, and let him boldly *swear*;

"But

The part which Mr. Sheridan took in politics caused a total separation of interests, and in some measure of intimacy between him and Mr. Harris; but not so of their friendship; their mutual interchange of good offices, both in and out of their theatres, reflects equal honour on both.

Mr. Harris also maintained, for five and twenty years, the strictest friendship, and almost constant intercourse with Macklin: and was, perhaps, the only man with whom that father of the modern stage

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" But above all, remember to *surprize*,
" For chiefly there the art of writing lies:
" With more than hocus pocus make each scene,
" Like juggler's ball, to hold a cheat within;
" To let his hero overset the table,
" As that gives zest and spirit to his fable:
" Toss down the tea-board, smash or force a door,
" Rare jokes! that set the play-house in a roar,
" Inverting good old plans once deem'd so wise,
" And laugh to scorn if he would win the prize:
" Since he's now thought the most diverting creature,
" Who writes, and acts—blest times!—most out of nature.
" And is this fitting? while a bard yet lives,
" To whom her richest stores wrong'd Nature gives;
" Whose magic powers these tricksters could defeat,
" And instant drive them from the realms of wit:
" Who, with the slightest waving of his wand,
" Could re-enthrone the drama's rightful band!
" O! would he prove again that drama's friend,
" Soon would the reign of merry-andrews end.
" But still the patriot veils the poet's charms,
" And * love assists to steal him from her arms.

* Mr. Sheridan had recently received the hand of his second Lady, when these verses were written

never

never had a quarrel. But so much has been said of this veteran writer and performer, in most of the late periodical works, that the public may, perhaps, have already been tempted to exclaim, "something too much of this." We shall therefore only observe of his character, generally, that he was a man as athletic and muscular in the strength of his mind as in the construction of his body; that his conceptions, and delivery of them in expression, were always in the extremes of right and wrong; that his energies were not more accurate than powerful; his qualities not more active than profound; that he was persevering almost to an unparalelled excess, in the pursuit of good and of evil; and that, although bitter in his enmities, he was warm in his friendships. He felt no "cold medium" in either; yet, partly from a knowledge of the practice of the world, and partly from asperity of temper, he was ever too suspicious of the motives of those about him. It is for ever to be remembered, to the honour of Mr. Harris, that, in conjunction with his friend Mr. Palmer, the present representative of the city of Bath, he set on foot the subscription that made the latter days of this extraordinary man easy, and also provided for his widow, who is still living.

We regret that we have scarce left ourselves room even to mention the well-known friend of Mr. Harris, Mr. Dives, who, upon great as well as small occasions, discovers toward the denizens of his bosom the goodness and the warmth of his heart; which though always hot, and flaming as a meteor, is clear and steady as a fixed star. He has somewhat of a rough husk

about

about him, to be sure, but the kernel of his character is admirably sweet and sound.

In the early part of Mr. Harris's life his person was extremely elegant; but it always discovered more delicacy than strength: his features were soft and engaging, and his address peculiarly gentle yet spirited. His figure is still very interesting: and he is in the possession of good general health; though, of late years, he has suffered much from a pulmonary complaint, that appears to have affected his lungs, and which has sunk an animated and lively tone of voice to a low whisper; and that not always given without seeming to be elaborated. But all his social habitudes, and his active pursuits, are still enjoyed, with little abatement either of pleasure or application. Amongst the latter, his love of field-sports and exercise is still pre-eminent, and he adjoins to these, according to the mode—ought we not to say the affectation of the times—something of the scientific and practical farmer. Thus, however, are the means of health and pleasure blended with wholesome occupation; and thus he provides employments to diversify those hours which are devoted to that occasional retirement, so desirable to those, whose life has once passed its meridian;—employments best calculated to render sweet and respectable the decline of our days: and if some little variety attaches to these agricultural pursuits, which though seldom productive to gentlemen-farmers, are commonly innocent, as not being unwieldy enough to deal the destructions of monopoly through the fields they cultivate, and, therefore

therefore, form an agreeable contrast to the avocations of a theatre. In this point of view they are not only to be ranked amongst "those painted clouds that beautify our days," but prove a celebrated assertion of the same poet, who asserts, that "vanity is given in vain."

The image of this gentleman's mind may be collected separably from the different facts which have been given of him in the course of this memoir. It is a mind at once adventurous and circumspect, capable of the depths of thought, yet often delighting to sport on the surface. By a union of powers, illustrative of this position, it has been seen, that while in extreme youth he conceived and executed the most hazardous plans, he indulged a gay festivity and fond enthusiasm; and in the warmest glow of these, and of passions that too often relax or melt away the principles, an undeviating integrity insured him the most implicit confidence in men even of colder tempers. In truth, it was soon discovered, that, in the most apparently rash undertakings, the soundness of his head, and the probity of his heart, were to be relied upon and trusted. Hence his power over the feelings and fortunes of his friends was, in a manner unlimited; a distinction possessed by few who engaged in a scheme, the very nature of which has been thought to give a visionary and romantic turn to the projector; and to incur the stigma of a character desultory and pleasing, but perilous.

It is to this long established, universal integrity, that has insured him not only the confidence of his private friends, but that of the public; who, from

long experience of his obedience to their wishes and devotion to their entertainment, as well as the conviction of his having (to gain these ends) often expended more than could be afforded, that they have promoted his interest by a sacrifice of their own convenience, to prevent his becoming too much the victim. A remarkable instance of this, is his having been able to raise the prices of admission; than which measure, there could not possibly have been a more striking proof of the firmest attachment of his friends, and of the general hearty good-will of the public.

Amongst the more stern parts of Mr. Harris's character, an unforgiving inflexibility of resentment has been thought to form a prominent feature; but it has been very strongly insisted upon by those who have had the most frequent opportunities of knowing the real qualities of his heart, that, though he resents, perhaps, too deeply a meditated injury, or one presumed to be such, there is nothing of implacability in his disposition. On the contrary, it is afferted that he can not only forgive, but, when he *has* forgiven, enemy or friend, few men can so entirely eradicate from the mind all feeling and memory of the circumstances that produced the estrangement.

The instances in proof of this are upon record, and sufficiently various, not only in the progress of his private but public life. With regard to the latter, it is next to an impossibility, that a man in the predicament of Mr. Harris, who has not only actors and authors—alike irritable and tenacious—but the great town itself to consult, to appease, to conciliate, and to gratify,

gratify, should have many encounters and may oppositions. Some of these, even of an early date, must still be in the general recollection; but to enter into any details of what is long since forgiven, would be as invidious as unnecessary. Garrick and he, in the early part of their acquaintance, were very shy of each other, but they soon grew intimate and a lasting friendship followed. The particulars of the long series of conflicts that subsisted betwixt Mr. Colman and Mr. Harris, would be brought back to the reader's memory with still less satisfaction. Be it sufficient to note, that all animosity was fully done away three years previous to the first mentioned gentleman's quitting the property, and friendship re-established between them to his decease, and since continued with the younger Colman. Disputes once ended, no enmity remains with him.

It is not without sincere concern, that the duty of biography—which, whether limited to the compass of a few pages, or expanded into bulky volumes, is precisely the same—renders it necessary to mention a more recent, and, as it might have turned out, a more fatal contention: and the same duty impels us to observe, that Mr. Harris never appeared to have been more successful, nor to have had more justice in the cause, or judgment in the conduct of it, than in his late dispute with some of the principal performers of Covent-garden theatre.

Either at the public investigation of the merits of this cause, or in some printed criticism since, several observations were made, the spirit of which, though not perhaps the precise letter, fix in our memory. It was there remarked, that that the proprietor of the

theatre has certainly a right to withhold his countenance from the insurgent performers, till they assure him that their conspiracy is at an end. It is also evident, that the government of the theatre must reside in the hands of the proprietors, and not in those of the actors, who are bound by their articles; and in every case of real grievance they have no right to assemble as a faction, but ought to apply separately for that redress which it is the interest of their employer to impart. And it was further observed, that the idea of the performers having a right to enjoy their own cast of characters for ever, is absurd in itself, and might be productive of the deepest injury to a theatre. Upon this principle, there would be an end to emulation, and rising genius would have no hope for encouragement and success.

The reasoning to be deduced from this, cannot but be conclusive: it is manifest, that if any breach of contract takes place on the part of the proprietor (though no such thing was pretended,) or any individual performer, it is the duty of that performer to apply individually for redress, and not to join in a conspiracy to disturb the theatre. The proprietor, on any just ground of complaint against a performer, would certainly not appeal to the body of actors at large, but to the individual who trespassed against the terms of his articles, and the interests of the property.

There is nothing more obvious, that it cannot be good policy in the proprietors to lessen the credit of the performers: but, on the contrary, it must obviously be the interest of the former to increase, as much as possible, the attraction of the actors, and to

place, in the most advantageous light, the talents they possess.

The ambition, the jealousy, the spleen, and the rapacity that are to be found in all classes of men, are, unhappily, too often prevalent in the theatrical world; and the difficulty of obviating the evils arising from all these restless propensities, renders the duties of a manager painful and irksome in the execution. If the theatre affords profits at one period, it is subject to a constant risque, and to vast disbursements. The profits of an actor are not casual, with respect to his salary; and if he possesses distinguished merit in his profession, he may generally look with confidence to public liberality on his benefit: but the theatre must take its chance, and submit to all the variations of popular taste, and strive to maintain its ground amidst rival amusements, by an unwearied pursuit of novelty, and a continual expence to render that novelty attractive.

But the majority of those very performers have, avowedly, strengthened this opinion by their own: and what is yet more cogent than any opinion—by their candid and manly advances to re-union: advances, which have been accepted with an alacrity that does honour to both parties.

As a sincere lover of the drama, and bearing a cordial good will towards those generally, who adorn and represent it, as well as feeling a just admiration of the high public claims of the particular actors, who, thinking themselves aggrieved, stood forward, the writer of this article most heartily rejoices, and his readers will rejoice with him, that all mistakes are at

length cleared away, and all amities re-established amongst them; and in the close of this memoir he cannot but breathe a sincere hope, that the result of the theatrical, like that of the national union,—and indeed, like the friendly compacts at present subsisting in distant parts of the world,—may be a fair and equal division, and interchange of private emolument, public honour, and every other beatitude of peace.

MR. CHRISTOPHER ANSTEY.

In the introduction of this excellent and original writer to the notice of our readers, we bring forward a character not more distinguished by the eminence of his learning and talents, than by the goodness of his heart.

Mr. Anstey is the son of the Rev. Dr. Anstey, of Trompington, in Cambridgeshire. Of the earlier part of his education we have no particular account; nor do we conceive that any traits of brilliancy appeared in his juvenile years; at least, if they did, the heads of the university at Cambridge were not sagacious enough to discover them; for it appears that he acquired no honours, or classic wreaths, "amidst the cloister's pale" of that learned seminary,

> "———Where, studious of ease,
> "Seven years did I sleep, and then lost my degrees."

That Mr. Anstey, however, was unquestionably well grounded in Greek and Latin, his many valuable publications and translations from both those languages fully demonstrate; and as he soon evinced a genius

genius of a very superior and original kind, we may conclude that our student did not think himself fairly treated by those great dispensers of college honours; a farther proof of which is, that he never failed to speak of some of them with marked asperity, particularly in his Bath Guide; where, among the dramatis personæ that appeared at the bath, he tells us, that

> "Dean Spaven, dean Mangey, and Dr. de Squirt,
> "Were all sent from Cambridge to rub off their dirt."

But it was not, luckily, in the power of the formal objections of learned doctors, who could not, or would not, give themselves the trouble to search into the stores of the acquired knowledge and natural abilities which enriched the mind of young Anstey, to suppress that fire of genius, which, although long dormant, burst forth into a blaze of humour, wit, and polished, though keen satire, in the New Bath Guide.

The first edition of that truly original poem appeared about the year 1765, and was received by the public with such a glow of pleasure, that, in a very short time, it ran through many large editions. Its character as a composition, is an union of the keenest irony, the most beautiful classic allusions, and the aptest similes. The versification is peculiarly harmonious, and goes "trippingly from the tongue." There is a playful spirit diffused over the whole; and though the author may not have had any particular objects in his eye, yet they are all so naturally and powerfully depicted, that there are few readers who have not found out a similitude between these fictitious personages,

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and some well known characters in real life, who are in the habits of visiting Bladud's celebrated city.

The author's name has, however, never appeared to any edition of this fascinating performance; but it was soon universally known to be the production of Mr. Anstey, and he had to exult, that the suffrage of every man of genius and taſte in the kingdom gave him an unqualified niche in the temple of Fame.

Mr. Anstey's next production was a monody on the death of the Marquis of Tavistock, in which he discovered that his tenderness and pathos was no way inferior to his wit and vivacity. It is indeed a mark of great versatility, that the same muse, which played off its merry gambols in describing the Blunderhead family, should be able to attune her lyre to the softest notes of domestic woe: yet with what success our author has effected this may be seen, by comparing the following lines on the much-lamented death of the Marquis of Tavistock, with the mock-heroics in the Bath Guide, which are in every reader's recollection.

——————Virtuous youth!
Thank heav'n, I knew thee not—I ne'er shall feel
The keen regret thy drooping friends sustain;
Yet will I drop the sympathizing tear,
And this last tribute to thy memory bring;
Not that thy noble birth provokes my song,
Or claims such offering from the muses' shrine;
But that thy spotless, undissembling heart,
Thy unaffected manners, all unstained
With pride of pow'r, and insolence of wealth;
Thy probity, benevolence, and truth,
(Best inmates of man's soul) for ever lost,
Cropt, like fair flow'rs, in life's meridian bloom,
Fade undistinguished in the silent grave.

When we consider that the nobleman here lamented was the father of a son no less illustrious for every fair and liberal quality, whose untimely fate the British empire is mourning at this very moment—the late Duke of Bedford—it would be ungrateful, it would be unnatural, not to pour forth in this place the tribute of that heartfelt regret, which, in common with the rest of his countrymen, we experience; nor should we, it is conceived, be forgiven by any man, under whose eye these pages may fall, were we to hurry from this national subject, without fondly dwelling on the virtues of this exquisite character. And in what form of words can we so well express our *sense* of those virtues, as in the language of a man who has the power both of discerning, and of describing his sensibility of merit in the highest possible perfection. It is under the sense of this conviction that we refer the reader to the eloquent eulogium of Mr. Fox,* when he addressed the House of Commons in his place, after a pause in which he appeared greatly agitated on the calamitous event, who had not merely robbed the orator of a friend, but the whole community of a parent. If this popular and truly elegant panegyric be not impressed on every man's memory, it is within reach of every hand. Nor can we avoid feeling some degree of virtuous pride that, not waiting for the death of this great and good man, we bore testimony, in his life-time, to the noble person † whose

* See Fox's speech March 16th, 1802.

† See Public Characters, Vol. I.

 early

early fate has been so pathetically bewailed by Mr. Fox, and so universally lamented by the public.

It should not be forgotten that the late Duke of Bedford, then an infant, was made one of the arguments of the poet whose memoir we are writing, to support the illustrious mother under the sense of her afflictions.

> "—— Turn thine eyes a while,
> "Nor with that lifeless picture feed thy woe:
> "Turn yet thine eyes: see how they court thy smiles,
> "Those infant pledges of connubial joy!
> "Dwell in their looks,—and trace his image there."

Our poet's conclusion of his elegant tribute to the late Duke of Bedford's father is so interesting in itself, and forms so engaging a transition from the sports appropriate to the mournful muse, to her employments in gayer moments, that we cannot resist the pleasure of presenting them.

> "————A muse forgive
> "Who for thy sorrow draws the pensive sigh:
> "Who feels thy grief, tho' erst in frolic hour
> "She turned her comic rhymes to mirth, and joy.
> "Unskill'd (I ween) in lofty verse, unus'd
> "To plaintive strains, yet by soft Pity led,
> "Trembling she visits the Pierian vale;
> "There culls each fragrant flow'r to deck the tomb
> "Where generous Russel lies.

The four last lines are a scarcely less applicable tribute to the tomb of the Russel whom the Bard then lamented, than to his, on which the nation has so recently offered of its sorrow and its praise.

Our author having married one of the accomplished daughters of Mr. Calvert, the great Brewer in London,

London, was blessed with a numerous offspring; and finding the air of his favourite Bath more congenial to his taste, and better adapted to the education of his family, he has resided many years in that city. His first house was situated in that grand and uniform pile called the *Royal Crescent*. Those who have seen it cannot have forgot the enchanting view from that lovely spot. It was in the contemplation of the lord of the manor, and proprietor of the ground-rents of the Crescent, to add to his yearly rental by letting those fine fields, immediately before that elegant segment of a circle, into *kitchen* gardens. Taste, propriety, and health, revolted at the idea, and our Bard was roused to ridicule, and to condemn the avaricious principle that could suggest it, which he happily effected in a beautiful and pointed ode, on an evening view of the Crescent, each stanza ending with "Sir Peter Rivers Grey." Luckily, however, cabbages and turnips were never transplanted to these fields, in consequence of this effusion of our author's pen; they remain in a kind of a lawn, the delight and ornament of that delightful city.

Mr. Anstey was one of the first contributors to the poetic amusement established by the late lamented Lady Miller, at Bath Easton. This institution was at first intended to promote a little innocent mirth and pleasure, but was afterwards productive of more noble ends—the establishing a fund for the benefit of the sick poor of the city. There were, notwithstanding, some malevolent spirits, who loaded the patroness and her associates with unjust and illiberal abuse,

abuse, and our author *discovered*, or *thought he discovered*, the writers of some of these offensive essays in a reverend gentleman, who used to subscribe the names of Regulus, Toby, Cæsar, &c. to them. Irritated at these unmerited attacks, Mr. Anstey produced a poem called the "*Priest Dissected*," addressed to the Rev. Mr. ——. This was a most violent philippic against anonymous assassins, with some humour, and a considerable portion of commendable acrimony. The poem has been long scarce, and seldom can a copy of it be procured. The following loyal and spirited compliment to the Monarch is well deserving a place in our collection.

"—— Could I the fragrant garland twine
"Of sweetest flowers that bloom round Virtue's shrine,
"To grace the husband, father, and the man
"Who lives and governs on the Christian plan:
"Pleas'd with mild arts his empire to improve,
"Blest in his dear, and virtuous consort's love:
"Who 'mid the toils of state his hours employs
"On ten sweet pledges of connubial joys,
"And gives to me (who equal numbers share)
"A bright example of connubial care—
"Then would I raise my feeble voice to sing
"My good, my honour'd, and my gracious King."

As a proof of Mr. Anstey's latinity, he addressed a poem in that language to a lamented and ingenious man—C. W. Bamfylde, Esq. of Hestercombe, in Somersetshire. This was universally esteemed by every scholar capable of appreciating its merit, as a correct, harmonious, and classical composition, but the subject—the fobiles of the fashionable world—was thought unfit for Latin verse, especially as it was generally addressed to the ladies. In a short time, however,

however, he made ample amends both to the learned, and unlearned by the publication of "the Election Ball," in the manner of the New Bath Guide. The first edition was printed in the Somersetshire dialect, but it was afterwards altered, and had a rapid sale. It is, perhaps, inferior to the Bath Guide, but it certainly possesses the same vein of original humour.

But this general imitation strengthens the claim of the original inventors, and sinks the others into a servile train, who follow their leaders, as Iulus followed his father. The Bath Guide will remain for ever an incomparably elegant, though light pillar in the temple of Fame, while the temple itself shall endure; and the aspiring herd who have presumed to build on Mr. Anstey's ground, with a few exceptions, amongst which we must notice a poetical Cheltenham Guide, in which the memoirs of the Blunderhead family are continued and concluded, supposed to be a very early production of Dr. Mavor, have already fallen under the weight of their own architecture, and mixt with the dust of things forgotten.

The *mania* for buildings of another kind, even to the ruin of the architects, and, in some degree to injuring the beauty of the city, raged so furiously in Bath some years ago, the groves, g[illegible]ns, prospects and pleasure-grounds fell victims to its wide-spreading folly. Amongst other evils attendant hereupon, Mr. Anstey was deprived of a favourite and beautiful spot of ground, in the cultivation of which he took great pleasure. It was there that our poet passed a considerable share of his time, and where his friends were

were entertained, and delighted. On being deprived of this charming scene, it was said he determined to leave Bath in disgust; but he worked himself into good humour by the following sharp epigram.

> "Ye men of Bath who stately mansions rear,
> "To wait for tenants from the devil knows where,
> "Would you pursue a plan which cannot fail,
> "Erect a mad-house, and enlarge your jail."

This produced a volley of sarcastic censures: the only one worthy of notice, and where the truth was more conspicuous than the poetry, is the following:

> "When crouds arrive fast, our streets increase,
> "And our jail only proves an empty space;
> "When health and ease here court the grave and gay,
> "Madmen and fools alone will keep away."

The fact is, at that season the houses in Bath were not by any means sufficient for the influx of company, and the doors of the jail were literally thrown open, there not being a single prisoner within the walls. Mr. Anstey was again soon reconciled to the place, and actually purchased several houses in the most eligible situations. He continues to reside there at this favourite spot, enlightening by his acquirements, or enlivening by the brilliancy of his conversation, all the learned and polite circles. His *bon-mots* are made the subjects of praise, and afford constant mirth to every genteel party. His own bounties are extensive, and his appeals to others have the best effect in opening the tardy purse-strings. He is in every shape benevolence personified, making all around him happy. His sons are bred up to the church, the law, the army, or in some civil department in India.

Mr.

Mr. John Anstey (a barrister) possesses the legitimate humour of his father, as his poem, called the "*Pleader's* Guide," strongly evinces. More originality of humour, keenness of satire, a deeper knowledge of the arcana of the profession, were never displayed in any publication. Mr. Anstey is now touching his seventieth year, but, like "a lusty winter, hail though frosty," he shews no marks of decay—his cheeks are florid, and his eye has even now that brilliancy which has seldom shone with superior lustre in any face. In short, Mr. Anstey lives in the enjoyment of a well-acquired fame, a happy competency, a most promising young family, and the best of wives, encircled by as numerous a host of friends as ever graced a patriarchal circle.

The woods of Hestercomb are truly beautiful: a hermitage in them, with the figure of an old witch painted on it, occasioned the following neat compliment from the late Dr. Langhorne.

"O'er BAMFYLDE's woods, by various nature graced,
"A *witch* presides, but then that WITCH is TASTE.

MR. WILLIAM GIFFORD.

IT was our intention to have inserted a biographical memoir of the author of the Baviad in a preceding volume of this work, when we accidentally obtained information, that Mr. Gifford himself designed to prefix a sketch of his life to a translation of Juvenal, which he was preparing for publication. In consequence

quence of this intelligence, we relinquished the gratification of presenting to our readers some very interesting particulars relative to that gentleman, from a persuasion that his own narrative would at once correct and enlarge the valuable materials with which we had been favoured.

We now congratulate ourselves on our forbearance—Mr. Gifford's translation of Juvenal has appeared, and with it the expected memoir of his life; which we do not hesitate to pronounce one of the most interesting and best written *morceaux*, which the pen of the biographer has ever executed. It is difficult to say which is most entitled to our admiration, the manly candour which unfolds his humble origin, or the genuine modesty which veils his present eminence. Of the former, Mr. Gifford has favoured us with a description in all respects so perfect, that the hand of arrogance itself would recoil from the conceit of blemishing so beautiful a production by the alteration of a point. We shall therefore literally copy all that relates to this part of Mr. Gifford's life from his own narration.

It will, however, be our pleasing task to supply some deficiencies in the sequel of this interesting memoir; a task which the modest silence of the author has rendered necessary. If he himself has conducted his readers to the vale of obscurity, and, as he terms it, of poverty "beyond the common lot," in which Fate first cast him, justice demands, that they should also know those merits which have elevated him from such a destiny to a distinguished rank among the

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PUBLIC CHARACTERS of his own times, and which will doubtless secure to him an honourable fame, when many of the more dazzling meteors of transient notoriety shall long have ceased to glimmer.

"Of my family (says Mr. Gifford) I know but little, and that little is not very precise. My great-grandfather, (the most remote of it, that I ever recollect to have heard mentioned) possessed considerable property at Halsworthy, a parish in the neighbourhood of Ashburton; but whether acquired or inherited, I never thought of asking, and do not know.*

He was probably a native of Devonshire, for there he spent the last years of his life; spent them too, in some sort of consideration, for Mr. T. (a very respectable surgeon of Ashburton) loved to repeat to me, when I first grew into notice, that he had frequently hunted with his hounds.

My grandfather was on ill terms with him: I believe, not without sufficient reason, for he was extravagant and dissipated. My father never mentioned his name, but my mother would sometimes tell me that he had ruined the family. That he spent much, I know; but I am inclined to think that his undutiful conduct occasioned my great-grandfather to bequeath a part of his property from him.

My father, I fear, revenged in some measure the cause of my great-grandfather. He was, as I have

* I have, however, some faint notion of hearing my mother say, that he, or his father, had been a China merchant, in London By China merchant I always understood, and so perhaps did she, a dealer in China-ware.

heard my mother say, "a very wild young man, who could be kept to nothing." He was sent to the grammar school at Exeter; from which he made his escape, and entered on board a man of war. He was soon reclaimed from his situation by my grandfather, and left his school a second time, to wander in some vagabond society.* He was now probably given up, for he was, on his return from this notable adventure, reduced to article himself to a plumber and glazier, with whom he luckily staid long enough to learn the business. I suppose his father was now dead, for he became possessed of two small estates, married my mother,† (the daughter of a carpenter at Ashburton,) and thought himself rich enough to set up for himself; which he did with some credit, at South Molton. Why he chose to fix there, I never inquired; but I learned from my mother, that after a residence of four or five years he was again thoughtless enough to engage in a dangerous frolic, which drove him once more to sea. This was an attempt to excite a riot in a Methodist chapel; for which his companions were prosecuted, and he fled, as I have mentioned.

My father was a good seaman, and was soon made second in command in the Lyon, a large armed transport in the service of government: while my mother (then with child of me) returned to her native place, Ashburton, where I was born, in April 1757.

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* He had gone with Bamfylde Moore Carew, then an old man.

† Her maiden name was Elizabeth Cain. My father's christian name was Edward.

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The resources of my mother were very scanty. They arose from the rent of three or four small fields, which yet remained unsold. With these, however, she did what she could for me; and as soon as I was old enough to be trusted out of her sight, sent me to a school-mistress of the name of Parret, from whom I learned in due time to read. I cannot boast much of my acquisitions at this school; they consisted merely of the contents of the "Child's Spelling Book:" but from my mother, who had stored up the literature of a country town, which, about half a century ago, amounted to little more than what was disseminated by itinerant ballad-singers, or rather, readers, I had acquired much curious knowledge of Catskin, and the Golden Bull, and the Bloody Gardener, and many other histories equally instructive and amusing.

My father returned from sea in 1764. He had been at the siege of the Havannah; and though he received more than a hundred pounds for prize-money, and his wages were considerable; yet, as he had not acquired any strict habits of economy, he brought home but a trifling sum. The little property yet left was therefore turned into money; a trifle more was got by agreeing to renounce all future pretensions to an estate at Totness;* and with this my father set up a second time as a glazier and house-painter. I was now about eight years old, and was

* This was a lot of small houses, which had been thoughtlessly suffered to fall into decay, and of which the rents had been so long unclaimed, that they could not now be recovered, unless by an expensive litigation.

put to the free-school (kept by Hugh Smerdon) to learn to read and write, and cypher. Here I continued about three years, making a most wretched progress, when my father fell sick and died. He had not acquired wisdom from his misfortunes, but continued wasting his time in unprofitable pursuits, to the great detriment of his business. He loved drink for the sake of society, and to this love he fell a martyr; dying of a decayed and ruined constitution before he was forty. The town's people thought him a shrewd and sensible man, and regretted his death. As for me I never greatly loved him; I had not grown up with him; and he was too prone to repulse my little advances to familiarity, with coldnes, or anger. He had certainly some reason to be displeased with me, for I learned little at school, and nothing at home, though he would now and then attempt to give me some insight into the business. As impressions of any kind are not very strong at the age of eleven or twelve, I did not long feel his loss; nor was it a subject of much sorrow to me, that my mother was doubtful of her ability to continue me at school, though I had by this time acquired a love for reading.

I never knew in what circumstances my mother was left: most probably they were inadequate to her support, without some kind of exertion, especially as she was now burthened with a second child about six or eight months old. Unfortunately she determined to prosecute my father's business; for which purpose she engaged a couple of journeymen, who, finding

finding her ignorant of every part of it, wasted her property, and embezzled her money. What the consequence of this double fraud would have been, there was no opportunity of knowing, as, in somewhat less than a twelvemonth, my poor mother followed my father to the grave. She was an excellent woman, bore my father's infirmities with patience and good humour, loved her children dearly, and died at last exhausted with anxiety and grief more on their account than on her own.

I was not quite thirteen when this happened; my little brother was hardly two; and we had not a relation nor a friend in the world. Every thing that was left was seized by a person of the name of C——, for money advanced to my mother. It may be supposed that I could not dispute the justice of his claims; and as no one else interfered, he was suffered to do as he liked. My little brother was sent to the alms-house, whither his nurse followed him out of pure affection; and I was taken to the house of the person I have just mentioned, who was also my godfather. Respect for the opinion of the town, (which, whether correct or not, was, that he had repaid himself by the sale of my mother's effects) induced him to send me again to school, where I was more diligent than before, and more successful. I grew fond of arithmetic, and my master began to distinguish me: but these golden days were over in less than three months. C—— sickened at the expense; and, as the people were now indifferent to my fate, he looked round for an opportunity of ridding himself of a useless charge. He

had previously attempted to engage me in the drudgery of husbandry. I drove the plough for one day to gratify him, but I left it with a firm resolution to do so no more, and in despite of his threats and promises, adhered to my determination. In this, I was guided no less by necessity than will. During my father's life, in attempting to clamber up a table, I had fallen backward, and drawn it after me: its edge fell upon my breast, and I never recovered the effects of the blow; of which I was made extremely sensible on any extraordinary exertion. Ploughing, therefore, was out of the question, and, as I have already said, I utterly refused to follow it.

As I could write and cypher, (as the phrase is) C—— next thought of sending me to Newfoundland, to assist in a storehouse. For this purpose he negociated with a Mr. Holdesworthy of Dartmouth, who agreed to fit me out. I left Ashburton with little expectation of seeing it again, and indeed with little care, and rode with my godfather to the dwelling of Mr. Holdesworthy. On seeing me, this great man observed with a look of pity and contempt, that I was "too small," and sent me away sufficiently mortified. I expected to be very ill received by my godfather, but he said nothing. He did not however choose to take me back himself, but sent me in the passage-boat to Totness, from whence I was to walk home. On the passage, the boat was driven by a midnight storm on the rocks, and I escaped with life almost by miracle.

My godfather had now humbler views for me, and I had

I had little heart to resist any thing. He proposed to send me on board one of the Torbay fishing boats; I ventured, however, to remonstrate against this, and the matter was compromised by my consenting to go on board a coaster. A coaster was speedily found for me at Brixham, and thither I went when little more than thirteen.

My master, whose name was Full, though a gross and ignorant, was not an ill-natured man; at least, not to me: and my mistress used me with unvarying kindness; moved perhaps by my weakness and tender years. In return I did what I could to requite her, and my good-will was not overlooked.

Our vessel was not very large, nor our crew very numerous. On ordinary occasions, such as short trips to Dartmouth, Plymouth, &c. it consisted only of my master, an apprentice nearly out of his time, and myself: when we had to go farther, to Portsmouth for example, an additional hand was hired for the voyage.

In this vessel (the Two Brothers) I continued nearly a twelvemonth; and here I got acquainted with nautical terms, and contracted a love for the sea, which a lapse of thirty years has but little diminished.

It will be easily conceived that my life was a life of hardship. I was not only a "ship-boy on the high and giddy mast," but also in the cabin, where every menial office fell to my lot: yet if I was restless and discontented, I can safely say, it was not so much on account of this, as of my being precluded from all possibility of reading; as my master did not possess,

nor do I recollect seeing during the whole time of my abode with him, a single book of any description, except the Coasting Pilot.

As my lot seemed to be cast, however, I was not negligent in seeking such information as promised to be useful; and I therefore frequented, at my leisure hours, such vessels as dropt into Torbay. On attempting to get on board one of these, which I did at midnight, I missed my footing, and fell into the sea. The floating away of the boat alarmed the man on deck, who came to the ship's side just in time to see me sink. He immediately threw out several ropes, one of which providentially (for I was unconscious of it) entangled itself about me, and I was drawn up to the surface till a boat could be got round. The usual methods were taken to recover me, and I awoke in bed the next morning, remembering nothing but the horror I felt, when I first found myself unable to cry out for assistance.

This was not my only escape, but I forbear to speak of them. An escape of another kind was now preparing for me, which deserves all my notice, as it was decisive of my future fate.

On Christmas day (1770) I was surprised by a message from my godfather, saying that he had sent a man and horse to bring me to Ashburton; and desiring me to set out without delay. My master, as well as myself, supposed it was to spend the holydays there; and he, therefore, made no objection to my going. We were, however, both mistaken.

Since I had lived at Brixham, I had broken off all connection

connection with Ashburton. I had no relation there but my poor brother,* who was yet too young for any kind of correspondence; and the conduct of my godfather towards me, did not entitle him to any portion of my gratitude, or kind remembrance. I lived therefore in a sort of sullen independence on all I had formerly known, and thought without regret of being abandoned by every one to my fate. But I had not been overlooked. The women of Brixham, who travelled to Ashburton twice a week with fish, and who had known my parents, did not see me without kind concern, running about the beach in a ragged jacket and trowzers. They mentioned this to the people of Ashburton, and never without commiserating my change of condition. This tale often repeated, awakened at length the pity of their auditors, and, as the next step, their resentment against the man who had reduced me to such a state of wretchedness. In a large town, this would have had little effect, but in

* Of my brother here introduced for the last time, I must yet say a few words. He was literally

The child of misery baptised in tears;

and the short passage of his life did not belie the melancholy presage of his infancy. When he was seven years old, the parish bound him out to a husbandman of the name of Leman, with whom he endured incredible hardships, which I had it not in my power to alleviate. At nine years of age he broke his thigh, and I took that opportunity to teach him to read and write. When my own situation was improved, I persuaded him to try the sea; he did so, and was taken on board the Egmont, on condition that his master should receive his wages. The time was now fast approaching when I could serve him, but he was doomed to know no favourable change of fortune: he fell fick, and died at Cork.

a place

a place like Ashburton, where every report speedily becomes the common property of all the inhabitants, it raised a murmur which my godfather found himself either unable or unwilling to withstand: he therefore determined, as I have just observed, to recall me; which he could easily do, as I wanted some months of fourteen, and consequently was not yet bound.

All this, I learned on my arrival; and my heart, which had been cruelly shut up, now opened to kinder sentiments, and fairer views.

After the holydays I returned to my darling pursuit, arithmetic: my progress was now so rapid, that in a few months I was at the head of the school, and qualified to assist my master (Mr. E. Furlong) on any extraordinary emergency. As he usually gave me a trifle on those occasions, [illegible] a thought in me, that by engaging with him [illegible] regular assistant, and undertaking the instruction of a few evening scholars, I might, with a little additional aid, be enabled to support myself. God knows, my ideas of support at this time, were of no very extravagant nature. I had, besides, another object in view. Mr. Hugh Smerdon (my first master) was now grown old and infirm; it seemed unlikely that he should hold out above three or four years; and I fondly flattered myself that, notwithstanding my youth, I might possibly be appointed to succeed him. I was in my fifteenth year, when I built these castles: a storm, however, was collecting, which unexpectedly burst upon me, and swept them all away.

On

On mentioning my little plan to C——, he treated it with the utmost contempt; and told me, in his turn, that as I had learned enough, and more than enough, at school, he must be considered as having fairly discharged his duty (so, indeed, he had); he added, that he had been negociating with his cousin, a shoemaker, of some respectability; who had liberally agreed to take me without a fee, as an apprentice. I was so shocked at this intelligence, that I did not remonstrate; but went in sullenness and silence to my new master, to whom I was soon after bound,* till I should obtain the age of twenty-one.

The family consisted of four journeymen, two sons about my own age, and an apprentice somewhat older. In these there was nothing remarkable; but my master himself was the strangest creature! He was a Presbyterian, whose reading was entirely confined to the small tracts published on the Exeter Controversy. As these (at least his portion of them) were all on one side, he entertained no doubt of their infallibility, and being noisy and disputacious, was sure to silence his opponents; and became, in consequence of it, intolerably arrogant and conceited. He was not, however, indebted solely to his knowledge of the subject for his triumph: he was possessed of Fenning's Dictionary, and he made a most singular use of it. His custom was to fix on any word in common use, and then to get by heart the synonym, or periphrasis by which it was explained in the book; this

* My indenture, which now lies before me, is dated the 1st of January, 1772.

he

he constantly substituted for the other, and as his opponents were commonly ignorant of his meaning, his victory was complete.

With such a man I was not likely to add much to my stock of knowledge, small as it was; and, indeed, nothing could well be smaller. At this period, I had read nothing but a black letter romance called Parismus and Parismenus, and a few loose magazines which my mother had brought from South Molton. The Bible, indeed, I was well acquainted with; it was the favourite study of my grand-mother, and reading it frequently with her, had impressed it strongly on my mind; these then, with the imitation of Thomas à Kempis, which I used to read to my mother on her death-bed, constituted the whole of my literary acquisitions.

As I hated my new profession with a perfect hatred, I made no progress in it; and was consequently little regarded in the family, of which I sunk by degrees into the common drudge: this did not much disquiet me, for my spirits were now humbled. I did not however quite resign the hope of one day succeeding to Mr. Hugh Smerdon, and therefore secretly prosecuted my favourite study, at every interval of leisure.

These intervals were not very frequent; and when the use I made of them was found out, they were rendered still less so. I could not guess the motives for this at first; but at length I discovered that my master destined his youngest son for the situation to which I aspired.

I possessed

I possessed at this time but one book in the world: it was a treatise on algebra, given to me by a young woman, who had found it in a lodging-house. I considered it as a treasure; but it was a treasure locked up: for it supposed the reader to be well acquainted with simple equation, and I knew nothing of the matter. My master's son had purchased Fenning's Introduction; this was precisely what I wanted, but he carefully concealed it from me, and I was indebted to chance alone for stumbling upon his hiding-place. I sat up for the greatest part of several nights successively, and, before he suspected that his treatise was discovered, had completely mastered it. I could now enter upon my own; and that carried me pretty far into the science.

This was not done without difficulty. I had not a farthing on earth, nor a friend to give me one: pen, ink and paper, therefore, (in despite of the flippant remark of Lord Orford) were, for the most part, as completely out of my reach, as a crown and sceptre. There was indeed a resource; but the utmost caution and secrecy were necessary in applying to it. I beat out pieces of leather as smooth as possible, and wrought my problems on them with a blunted awl: for the rest, my memory was tenacious, and I could multiply and divide by it to a great extent.

Hitherto I had not so much as dreamt of poetry: indeed I scarce knew it by name; and, whatever may be said of the force of nature, I certainly never "lisp'd in numbers." I recollect the occasion of my first attempt: it is, like all the rest of my non-adventures,

tures, of so unimportant a nature, that I should blush to call the attention of the idlest reader to it, but for the reason alleged in the introductory paragraph. A person, whose name escapes me, had undertaken to paint a sign for an alehouse: it was to be a lion, but the unfortunate artist produced a dog. On this awkward affair one of my acquaintance wrote a copy of what we called verses: I liked it, but fancied I could compose something more to the purpose: I tried, and by the unanimous suffrage of my shop-mates was allowed to have succeeded. Notwithstanding this encouragement, I thought no more of verse, till another occurrence, as trifling as the former, furnished me with a fresh subject: and so I went on, till I had got together about a dozen of them, Certainly nothing on earth was ever so deplorable: such as they were, however, they were talked of in my little circle, and I was sometimes invited to repeat them, even out of it. I never committed a line to paper for two reasons; first, because I had no paper; and secondly —perhaps I might be excused from going farther; but in truth I was afraid, for my master had already threatened me, for inadvertently hitching the name of one of his customers into a rhyme.

The repetitions of which I speak were always attended with applause, and sometimes with favours more substantial: little collections were now and then made, and I have received sixpence in an evening. To one who had long lived in the absolute want of money, such a resource seemed like a Peruvian mine. I furnished myself by degrees with paper, &c.

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and, what was of more importance, with books of geometry, and of the higher branches of algebra, which I cautiously concealed. Poetry, even at this time, was no amusement of mine: it was subservient to other purposes; and I only had recourse to it, when I wanted money for my mathematical pursuits.

But the clouds were gathering fast. My master's anger was raised to a terrible pitch by my indifference to his concerns, and still more by the reports which were daily brought to him of my presumptuous attempts at versification. I was required to give up my papers, and when I refused, my garret was searched, my little hoard of books discovered, and removed, and all future repetitions prohibited in the strictest manner.

This was a very severe stroke, and I felt it most sensibly; it was followed by another severer still; a stroke which crushed the hopes I had so long and so fondly cherished, and resigned me at once to despair. Mr. Hugh Smerdon, on whose succession I had calculated, died, and was succeeded by a person not much older than myself, and certainly not so well qualified for the situation.

I look back to that part of my life which immediately followed this event, with little satisfaction; it was a period of gloom and savage unsociability: by degrees I sunk into a kind of corporeal torpor; or, if rouzed into activity by the spirit of youth, wasted the exertion in splenetic and vexatious tricks, which alienated the few acquaintances compassion had

had yet left me. So I crept on in silent discontent; unfriended and unpitied; indignant at the present, careless of the future, an object at once of apprehension and dislike.

From this state of abjectness I was raised by a young woman of my own class. She was a neighbour; and whenever I took my solitary walk, with my Wolfius in my pocket, she usually came to the door, and by a smile, or a short question put in the friendliest manner, endeavoured to solicit my attention. My heart had been long shut to kindness, but the sentiment was not dead in me: it revived at the first encouraging word; and the gratitude I felt for it, was the first pleasing sensation I had ventured to entertain for many dreary months.

Together with gratitude, hope, and other passions still more enlivening, took place of that uncomfortable gloominess which so lately possessed me: I returned to my companions, and by every winning art in my power, strove to make them forget my former repulsive ways. In this, I was not unsuccessful; I recovered their good-will, and by degrees to be somewhat of a favourite.

My master still murmured; for the business of the shop went on no better than before: I comforted myself, however, with the reflection that my apprenticeship was drawing to a conclusion, when I determined to renounce the employment for ever, and to open a private school.

In this humble and obscure state, poor beyond the common lot, yet flattering my ambition with day-

dreams which, perhaps, would never have been realized, I was found in the twentieth year of my age by Mr. William Cookesley, a name never to be pronounced by me without veneration. The lamentable doggerel which I have already mentioned, and which had passed from mouth to mouth among people of my own degree, had by some accident or other reached his ear, and gave him a curiosity to inquire after the author.

It was my good fortune to interest his benevolence. My little history was not untinctured with melancholy, and I laid it fairly before him: his first care was to console; his second, which he cherished to the last moment of his existence, was to relieve and support me.

Mr. Cookesley was not rich: his eminence in his profession, which was that of a surgeon, procured him, indeed, much employment; but in a country town, men of science are not the most liberally rewarded: he had besides, a very numerous family, which left him little for the purposes of general benevolence: that little, however, was chearfully bestowed, and his activity and zeal were always at hand to supply the deficiencies of his fortune.

On examining into the nature of my literary attainments, he found them absolutely nothing: he heard, however, with equal surprise and pleasure, that, amidst the grossest ignorance of books, I had made a very considerable progress in the mathematics. He engaged me to enter into the details of this affair; and when he had learned that I had made it in cir-

cumstances of discouragemement and danger, he became more warmly interested in my favour, as he now saw a possibility of serving me.

The plan that occurred to him was naturally that which had so often suggested itself to me. There were indeed several obstacles to be overcome: I had eighteen months yet to serve; my hand-writing was bad, and my language very incorrect; but nothing could slacken the zeal of this excellent man; he procured a few of my poor attempts at rhyme, dispersed them amongst his friends and acquaintance, and when my name was become somewhat familiar to them, set on foot a subscription for my relief. I still preserve the original paper; its title was not very magnificent, though it exceeded the most sanguine wishes of my heart: it ran thus: "a Subscription for purchasing the remainder of the time of William Gifford, and for enabling him to improve himself in Writing and English Grammar." Few contributed more than five shillings, and none went beyond ten-and-sixpence: enough, however, was collected to free me from my apprenticeship, (the sum my master received was six pounds,) and to maintain me for a few months, during which I assiduously attended the Rev. Thomas Smerdon.

At the expiration of this period, I found that my progress (for I will speak the truth in modesty) had been more considerable than my patrons expected: I had also written in the interim several little pieces of poetry, less rugged, I suppose, than my former ones, and certainly with fewer anomalies of language. My

My preceptor, too, spoke favourably of me; and my benefactor, who was now become my father and my friend, had little difficulty in persuading my patrons to renew their donations, and continue me at school for another year. Such liberality was not lost upon me; I grew anxious to make the best return in my power, and I redoubled my diligence. Now, that I am sunk into indolence, I look back with some degree of scepticism to the exertions of that period.

In two years and two months from the day of my emancipation, I was pronounced by Mr. Smerdon, fit for the University. The plan of opening a writing-school had been abandoned almost from the first; and Mr. Cookesley looked round for some one who had interest enough to procure me some little office at Oxford. This person, who was soon found, was Thomas Taylor, Esq. of Denbury, a gentleman to whom I have already been indebted for much liberal and friendly support. He procured me the place of Bib. Lect. at Exeter college; and this, with such occasional assistance from the country as Mr. Cookesley undertook to provide, was thought sufficient to enable me to live, at least, till I had taken a degree.

During my attendance on Mr. Smerdon, I had written, as I observed before, several tuneful trifles, some as exercises, others voluntarily, (for poetry was now become my delight) and not a few at the desire of my friends. When I became capable, however, of reading Latin and Greek with some degree of facility, that gentleman employed all my leisure hours in translations from the classics; and indeed

I do not know a single school-book, of which I did not render some portion into English verse. Among others, JUVENAL engaged my attention, or rather my master's, and I translated the tenth Satire for a holyday task. Mr. Smerdon was much pleased with this, (I was not undelighted with it myself;) and as I was now become fond of the author, he easily persuaded me to proceed with him, and I translated in succession the third, the fourth, and twelfth, and I think the eighth Satires. As I had no end in view but that of giving a temporary satisfaction to my benefactors, I thought little more of these, than of many other things of the same nature which I wrote from time to time, and of which I never copied a single line.

On my removing to Exeter College, however, my friend, ever attentive to my concerns, advised me to copy my translation of the tenth Satire, and present it, on my arrival, to the Rev. Dr. Stinton, (afterwards Rector) to whom Mr. Taylor had given me an introductory letter: I did so, and it was kindly received. Thus encouraged, I took up the first and second Satires, (I mention them in the order they were translated) when my friend, who had sedulously watched my progress, first started the idea of my going through the whole, and publishing it by subscription, as a means of increasing my means of subsistence. To this I readily acceded, and finished the thirteenth, eleventh, and fifteenth Satires: the remainder were the work of a much later period.

When I had got thus far, we thought it a fit time to

to mention our design; it was very generally approved of by my friends; and on the first of January, 1781, the subscription was opened by Mr. Cookesley at Ashburton, and by myself at Exeter College.

So bold an undertaking so precipitately announced, will give the reader, I fear, a higher opinion of my conceit than of my talents: neither the one nor the other, however, had the smallest concern with the business, which originated solely in ignorance: I wrote verses with great facility, and I was simple enough to imagine that little more was necessary for a translator of Juvenal! I was not, indeed, unconscious of my inaccuracies: I knew that they were numerous, and that I had need of some friendly eye to point them out, and some judicious hand to rectify or remove them: but for these, as well as for every thing else, I looked to Mr. Cookesley, and that worthy man, with his usual alacrity and kindness, undertook the laborious task of revising the whole translation. My friend was no great Latinist, perhaps I was the better of the two; but he had taste and judgment, which I wanted. What advantages might have been ultimately derived from them, there was unhappily no opportunity of ascertaining, as it pleased the Almighty to call him to himself by a sudden death, before we had quite finished the first Satire. He died with a letter of mine unopened in his hands.

This event, which took place on the 15th of January, 1781, afflicted me beyond measure.* I

* I began this unadorned narrative on the 15th of January, 1801: twenty years have therefore elapsed since I lost my benefactor and

was not only deprived of a most faithful and affectionate friend, but of a zealous and ever-active protector, on whom I confidently relied for support: the sums that were still necessary for me, he always collected: and it was to be feared that the assistance, which was not solicited with warmth, would insensibly cease to be afforded.

In many instances this was actually the case: the desertion, however, was not general: and I was encouraged to hope, by the unexpected friendship of Servington Savery, a gentleman who voluntarily stood forth as my patron, and watched over my interests with kindness and attention.

Some time before Mr. Cookesley's death, we had agreed that it would be proper to deliver out with the terms of subscription, a specimen of the manner in which the translation was executed: * to obviate any idea of selection, a sheet was accordingly taken from the beginning of the first Satire. My friend died while it was in the press.

After a few melancholy weeks, I resumed the

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and my friend. In the interval I have wept a thousand times at the recollection of his goodness: I yet cherish his memory with filial respect; and at this distant period, my heart sinks within me at every repetition of his name.

* Many of these papers were distributed; the terms, which I extract from one of them, were these. "The work shall be printed in quarto, (without notes,) and be delivered to the Subscribers in the month of December next.

"The price will be sixteen shillings in boards, half to be paid at the time of subscribing, the remainder on delivery of the book."

translation;

translation; but found myself utterly incapable of proceeding. I had been so accustomed to connect Mr. Cookesley's name with every part of it, and I laboured with such delight in the hope of giving him pleasure, that now, when he appeared to have left me in the midst of my enterprize, and I was abandoned to my own efforts, I seemed to be engaged in a hopeless struggle, without motive or end: and his idea, which was perpetually recurring to me, brought such bitter anguish with it, that I shut up the work with feelings bordering on distraction.

To relieve my mind, I had recourse to other pursuits. I endeavoured to become more intimately acquainted with the classics, and to acquire some of the modern languages: by permission too, or rather recommendation, of the Rector and Fellows, I also undertook the care of a few pupils: this removed much of my anxiety respecting my future means of support. I have a heart-felt pleasure in mentioning this indulgence of my college: it could arise from nothing but the liberal desire inherent, I think, in the members of both our Universities, to encourage every thing that bears the most distant resemblance to talents: for I had no claims on them from any particular exertions.

The lapse of many months had now soothed, and tranquillized my mind, and I once more returned to the translation, to which a wish to serve a young man surrounded with difficulties, had induced a number of respectable characters to set their names: but alas, what a mortification! I now discovered, for the

first time, that my own experience, and the advice of my too, too partial friend had engaged me in a work, for the due execution of which, my literary attainments were by no means sufficient. Errors and misconceptions appeared in every page. I had, indeed, caught something of the spirit of Juvenal, but his meaning had frequently escaped me, and I saw the necessity of a long and painful revision, which would carry me far beyond the period fixed for the appearance of the work. Alarmed at the prospect, I instantly resolved (if not wisely, yet I trust honestly) to renounce the publication for the present.

In pursuance of this resolution, I wrote to my friend in the country, (the Rev. Servington Savery) requesting him to return the subscription money in his hands, to the subscribers. He did not approve of my plan; nevertheless he promised, in a letter which now lies before me, to comply with it; and, in a subsequent one, added that he had already begun to do so.

For myself, I also made several repayments; and trusted a sum of money to make others, with a fellow collegian, who, not long after, fell by his own hands in the presence of his father. But there were still some whose abode could not be discovered, and others, on whom to press the taking back of eight shillings would neither be decent nor respectful: even from these I ventured to flatter myself that I should find pardon, when on some future day I presented them with the Work, (which I was still secretly determined to complete) rendered more

worthy

worthy patronage, and increased, by notes, which I now perceived to be absolutely necessary, to more than double its proposed size.

In the leisure of a country residence, I fancied this might be done in two years; perhaps I was not too sanguine: the experiment, however, was not made, for about this time a circumstance happened which changed my views, and indeed my whole system of life.

I had contracted an acquaintance with a person of the name of ———, recommended to my particular notice by a gentleman of Devonshire, whom I was proud of an opportunity to oblige. This person's residence at Oxford was not long, and when he returned to town, I maintained a correspondence with him by letters. At his particular request, these were inclosed in a cover and sent to Lord GROSVENOR: one day I inadvertently omitted the direction, and his Lordship, necessarily supposing it to be meant for himself, opened and read it. There was something in it which attracted his notice; and when he gave the letter to my friend, he had the curiosity to enquire about his correspondent at Oxford; and, upon the answer he received, had the kindness to desire he might be brought to see him on his coming to town: to this circumstance, purely accidental on all sides, and to this alone, I owe my introduction to this nobleman.

On my first visit, he asked me what friends I had, and what were my prospects in life; and I told him that I had no friends, and no prospects of any kind.

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He said no more; but when I called to take leave, previous to returning to college, I found that this simple exposure of my circumstances had sunk deep into his mind. At parting, he informed me that he charged himself with my present support, and future establishment; and that till this last could be effected to my wish, I should come and reside with him. These were not words of course: they were more than fulfilled in every point. I did go, and reside with him; and I experienced a warm and cordial reception, a kind and affectionate esteem, that has known neither diminution nor interruption, from that hour to this, a period of twenty years!

In his Lordship's house I proceeded with Juvenal, till I was called upon to accompany his son (one of the most amiable and accomplished young noblemen that this country, fertile in such characters, could ever boast) to the continent. With him, in two successive tours, I spent many years: years of which the remembrance will always be dear to me, from the recollection that a friendship was then contracted, which time, and a more intimate knowledge of each other, have mellowed into a regard that forms at once the pride and happiness of my life."

Such is the interesting history of himself, which Mr. Gifford, with unexampled candour, has given to the public.

Who that has perused the BAVIAD and the MÆVIAD, with a judgment capable of appreciating the merits, and a taste sufficiently refined to enjoy the beauties of those poems, can read this memoir without exclaiming,

exclaiming, "Was such the origin of Gifford!—Was such the theatre in which his first ideas were formed, his first impressions stamped!"

It is, indeed, almost impossible to conceive a station, among civilized men, more remote from every thing allied to intellectual sense, to polished manners, and cultivated taste, than the birth of a cabin-boy in a coaster! Nor can the shop of a presbyterian shoemaker be considered as a sphere of existence much more elevated. In this latter situation, however, Mr. Gifford passed several years of that critical period of youth, when in general those habits are acquired, and those propensities are imbibed, which characterize the man. How then has it happened, that light and shade are not more opposite to each other than is the character of Mr. Gifford to that, which a similar destination in life would have formed in almost every subject? To the properties of GENIUS alone can such a preservation of mind be attributed. That rare ingredient among the gifts of Nature to her children was mingled in the lot of Gifford. It was the consciousness of GENIUS which made him spurn the labours of the plough; and afterwards, when chilled by poverty and depressed by sorrow, he *sullenly* and *silently* submitted to be bound apprentice, is it not discernible, from his own pathetic description of that act, that it is the captivity of GENIUS which is recorded! The apathy, the temporary annihilation of mind, which was the consequence of this mental bondage, will be easily accounted for on the same grounds by the most superficial enquirer. In a clime so uncongenial, genius be-

came torpid. Gifford still had eyes and ears, but they beheld no object, they imbibed no sound capable of conveying to such a mind any impression of sufficient force to rouse its energies, or even to excite its attention.

Happily, for the honour of our age, the lethargic influence of such an atmosphere was not permitted to be permanent., We have seen that the discrimination and benevolence of a Cookesley released imprisoned genius, and we have seen, with gratitude to Cookesley, its subsequent career. And though the distance is immense between the eminence of the author of the Baviad and the obscurity of the cabin-boy of the *Two Brothers*, yet we shall cease to be surprized at the atchievement, when we reflect that it is not more natural, that the eagle, liberated from a prison stake, should dart on daring wings to meet the sun, than that genius, freed from misery, poverty, and care, should soar towards the summit of diſtinction.

The Baviad, to which we have so often alluded, though Mr. Gifford does not once mention it in his own memoir, is unquestionably the best satire that has issued from the press since the Rosciad of Churchill. The epidemic malady of *Della Cruscan* poetry, which gave rise to the Baviad, must be in the recollection of most of our readers.* A fitter subject for satire

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* For the information of those readers who are yet ſtrangers to this admirable ſatire, we abridge the preface to the firſt edition.

"In 1785, (Mr. Gifford says) a few English of both sexes, whom chance had jumbled together at Florence, took a fancy to while away their time in scribbling high panegyrics on themselves, and complimentary canzonettas on two or three Italians, who understood

never presented itself to the poet's lash; and we are almost heathens enough to say, that Apollo, through

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derstood too little of the language to be disgusted with them. In this there was not much harm; but as folly is progressive, they soon wrought themselves into an opinion that they really deserved the fine things which were mutually said and sung of each other. About the fame period, a daily paper called the WORLD was in fashion, and much read. This paper, was equally lavish of its praise and abuse, and its conductors took upon themselves to direct the taste of the town, by prefixing a short panegyric to every trifle that appeared in their own columns. The first cargo of *Della Cruscan* poetry was given to the public through the medium of this paper. There was a specious brilliancy in these exotics, which dazzled the native grubs, who had scarce ever ventured beyond a sheep and a crook, and a rose-tree grove, with an ostentatious display of "blue hills," and "crashing torrents," and "petrifying suns." From admiration to imitation is but a step. Honest Yenda tried his hand at a descriptive ode, and succeeded beyond his hopes; Anna Matilda followed; in a word,

——contagio labem
Hanc dedit in plures, ficut grex totus in agris
Unius scabie cadit, et porrigine porci.

While the epidemic malady was spreading from fool to fool, Della Crusca came over, and immediately announced himself by a sonnet to love. Anna Matilda answered it, and the "two great luminaries of the age," as Mr. Bell calls them, fell desperately in love with each other. From that period not a day passed without an amatory epistle fraught with thunder, lightning, *et quicquid habent telorum armamentaria cœli.*—The fever turned to frenzy: Laura-Maria, Carlos, Orlando, Adelaide, and a thousand other nameless names, caught the infection, and from one end of the kingdom to another, all was nonsense and Della Crusca. Even then I waited with a patience, which I can better account for than excuse, for some one (abler than myself) to step forth to correct this depravity of the public taste, and check the inundation of absurdity that was bursting upon us from a thoufand springs. As no one appeared, and as the evil grew every day more alarming, (for now bed-ridden old women, and girls at their sampler,

the agency of the generous Cookesley, singled out Gifford as the champion of his cause against the mad rebels, who threatened to overturn his empire upon earth, or at least in Britain. Be this as it may, we will assert that the poet's connection with the god is distinguishable in every line; and that the defeat of the *Cruscan* phalanx could not have been more complete had the muses and their master fought in person. And though Mr. Gifford himself observes, in a note to the Mæviad, that "the contest was without danger, and the victory without glory," from the impotence of these Askaparts, we must dissent from this observation. It surely required no slender degree of skill or courage to attack a host, however puny in themselves, who had the current of popular applause for their intrenchment, and columns behind columns of prostituted and venal journals ready to repel the attack. Accordingly the champion of sense and poetry was in his turn assailed, by the "angry ebullitions of folly unmasked and vanity mortified." In the approbation and applause of the good and wise, however, Mr. Gifford found solid cause of self-congratulation, while the imbecile attacks of fools or knaves passed by him like "the idle wind."

The Mæviad appeared in the year 1795, and may be deemed a second part of the Baviad. The satire of the former was particularly restricted to the *sonnetteers* and *ode-mongers* of the Cruscan school; but the latter embraced *Cruscan* and *Harlequin* dramatists.

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pler, began to rave) I determined, without much confidence of success, to try what could be effected by my feeble powers; and accordingly wrote the following poem."

As there has existed but one opinion upon the merits of these poems, our criticism would be as useless as we confess it would be feeble, on account of our limits. We cannot, however, refrain from selecting two or three short passages from these poems, which will convey a juster idea of Mr. Gifford to those who can understand them, than any description of his character by another hand.

Is a grateful remembrance, in prosperity, of those who were the friends of our adversity an amiable trait? —Hear Mr. Gifford.

" ——Thrown too soon on the world's dangerous tide
" To sink or swim as chance might best decide;
" Me, all too weak to gain the distant land,
" The waves had whelmed, but that an outstretch'd hand
" Kindly upheld, when now with fear unnerv'd,
" And still protects the life it then preserv'd.

The following lines are perhaps unequalled in their poetical beauty, at the same time that they display sympathies none but the good can cherish.

" Sure, if our fates hang on some hidden power,
" And take their colour from the natal hour,
" Then, IRELAND,* the same planet on us rose;
" Such the strong sympathies our lives disclose.
" Thou know'st how soon we felt this influence bland,
" And sought the brook, and coppice, hand in hand,
" And shap'd rude bows, and uncouth whistles blew,
" And paper kites (a last, great effort) flew:
" And when the day was done, retir'd to rest,
" Sleep on our eyes, and sunshine on our breast.
" In riper years, again together thrown,
" Our studies, as our sports before, were one.
" Together we explor'd the stoic page
" Of the Ligurian, stern tho' beardless, sage!

* The Rev. Mr. Ireland, vicar of Croydon, Surrey, author of "*Vindiciæ Regiæ*," &c. &c.

"Together too, when Greece unlock'd her stores,
"We rov'd in thought o'er Troy's devoted shores,
"Or followed, while he sought his native soil,
"That old man eloquent" from toil to toil;
"Lingering with good Alcinoüs o'er the tale,
"Till the east reddened, and the stars grew pale.
"So part our life; till Fate, severely kind,
"Tore us apart, and land and sea disjoin'd
"For many a year; now met, to part no more,
"The ascendant power, confess'd so strong of yore,
"Stronger by abſence, every thought controuls,
"And knits in perfect unity our souls.

Again: need any one enquire the habits of him who wrote these lines.

"O for thy spirit, Pope!——
"— — — — — — — —
"An hour may come, so I delight to dream,
"When slowly wandering by thy sacred stream,
"Majestic Thames! I leave the world behind,
"And give to Fancy all the raptured mind.
"An hour may come, when I shall strike the lyre
"To nobler themes: then, then the chords inspire
"With thy own harmony, most sweet, most strong,
"And guide my hand thro' all the maze of song!

The merits of the Baviad and Mæviad are of a nature to perpetuate the memory of their author, and the translation of Juvenal, which Mr. Gifford has recently given to the world, would have consecrated his name to the homage of remote posterity, even had no other production served as its precursor to fame. The satires of Juvenal are justly ranked among the best productions of the ancient poets, and, "taken for all in all," are not inferior to any. Yet it was not until the beginning of the seventeenth century that a com-

plete translation of Juvenal was attempted; and even then the versions of Sir Robert Stapylton and Barten Holyday were the only means by which an unlearned reader could obtain a glimpse of the literary treasures of the Roman satirist, for a period of nearly an hundred years, when Dryden's translation appeared. With the character of this translation every reader must be sufficiently acquainted. Dr. Johnson has said of it, "that it preserves the wit, but wants the dignity of Juvenal!" Without enquiring whether the Doctor *meant* to convey praise or censure by this character, we are clearly of opinion that a want of Juvenal's dignity, cannot be atoned for by any other merit in his translator. But it is not necessary to discuss the merits of former translations for a deduction of the *necessity* of Mr. Gifford's, as we have seen that other motives than the *public service* first urged him to his task, stimulated its progress, and decided its publication. It might be deemed arrogant in us to pronounce judgment on a performance so lately in the hands of the public; we will therefore restrain those expressions of admiration and applause which would flow "*trippingly from our tongue*," sensible that the judgment of posterity will do ample justice to the "*Juvenal* of OUR age."

Since this article was begun to be written, the nobleman to whom Mr. Gifford personally, and on his account the British public generally, owe boundless obligations, has left our world. We could wish it were engraven on his tomb——"HERE LIES THE PATRON OF WILLIAM GIFFORD." Alas! how few

among our degenerated and degenerating nobles can claim so proud an epitaph! ONE however remains, of whom the poet himself has thus sung:

> "Yet one remains, ONE NAME for ever dear,
> "With whom, conversing many a happy year,
> "I mark'd with secret joy the opening bloom
> "Of virtue, prescient of the fruits to come,
> "Truth—honour—rectitude—"

It is needless to add, that the nobleman alluded to was Lord BELGRAVE, now the Earl of Grosvenor.

Blessed with such a friend, the subject of these memoirs is safely sheltered from the storms of life, in an harbour which affords him competence, tranquillity, and respect. In the society of the first characters in this country for rank, talents, and taste, does the *ci-devant* cabin-boy of the Two Brothers mingle, as in a sphere for which nature evidently designed him. Contrasting, therefore, the origin of William Gifford with his present eminence in society, we may describe the emancipation of his genius in the same words as Pope describes the liberation of the soul by death, and say,

> "As into air the purer spirits flow,
> "And sep'rate from their kindred dregs below,
> "So flew the soul to its CONGENIAL PLACE."

PROFESSOR CARLYLE.

CONCERNING Professor Carlyle the curiosity of the public has been excited both by his writings and by his late travels in the Eaſt. We ſhould have been happy

happy to have gratified our readers with an account of this gentleman more detailed than the following. We have not been deficient in our exertions to obtain the necessary intelligence; and though what we have procured is not copious, we have at leaſt the pleasure of knowing that it is accurate.

Mr. Carlyle was born in Carlisle in the year 1759: his father was a physician, and practised in that place with considerable reputation. In 1775 he removed from the grammar-school in Carlisle to Chriſt's College, Cambridge. After a residence of about two years in Christ's he left it, and was admitted of Queen's, the prospect of a fellowship which was offered at Queen's being more favourable than that which he enjoyed at Christ's.

Soon after he had taken his bachelor's degree he was elected fellow of Queen's. The literary leisure afforded by a fellowship seems at that time to have bounded his wishes at Cambridge, as we do not find that he filled any university office, or at all engaged in the bustle in which those who desire to establish an interest in a public body are compelled to live: the only interruptions to his studies arose from attending private pupils. Among those who were under his care was a son of the present Bishop of Ely, by whom, in consequence of his connection, Mr. Carlyle was afterwards presented to a living.

At this period he began to conceive that passion for the study of oriental literature by which his name has since been so much diſtinguished. The study of the Arabic language recommends itself, by a variety

of attractions, to the attention both of a linguist and a scholar. In antiquity, in force and copiousness, it is not inferior to the moſt celebrated languages of the world, and its writers, though they muſt yield to the classics of Greece and Rome, possess great and peculiar merit. The poets who adorned the flourishing period of the Khaliphat, display in their works all the forms of poetical excellence: with the energy and magnificence which are characteristic of the eastern genius, they join the exactest purity of thought and expression. To prove the superiority of the Arabians in works of imagination, the "Thousand and One Nights" only need be mentioned, which have long been the delight of Europe, though suffering under all the effects of mutilation, of bad translation, and of our ignorance of the oriental manners, to which they are perpetually referring. The mathematician must look for the first principles of some of the most important branches of his science in the writings of their philosophers; and many of their hiſtorians have added, by elegance of narration and weight of sentiment, to the natural intereſt of the subjects which the revolution of the Mohamedan empire afforded them.

But the importance of the language appears in another consideration distinct from the merit of its writers. The Arabian scholars were acquainted with the Greek and Roman writers, and translated them for the benefit of their less learned countrymen. Among the many manuscripts which are spread over the wide extent of the empire of the Khaliphs, it may be reasonably concluded that some of these transla-

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tions survive, and that a future search may discover them. Our beſt and almost our only hopes of recovering those classics which have been loſt, are, therefore, founded on the progress of Arabic literature: it cannot indeed restore them in their full value, as the graces of diction must perish in two translations; but we shall obtain the facts and reflections of the historians, the thoughts of the poets, and the precepts of the philosophers.

The university library at Cambridge contains a considerable number of oriental works, and therefore affords great assistance to the Arabic student, whose greateſt obſtacle is generally a want of books. Mr. Carlyle enjoyed in his studies an advantage very seldom attainable, the instructions of David Zamio, an Asiatic, and an able scholar. Speaking of this person, Mr. Carlyle observes, that "he was born at Bagdad, that "he resided with him some time at Cambridge, and "that to his assistance he is principally indebted for "any knowledge he may have acquired in oriental "literature."

After a residence of about ten years in college, Mr. Carlyle married and settled in Carlisle. He soon obtained considerable preferments; among these was one of the two parish churches in Carlisle, of which he performed the duty many years.

In 1794, Dr. Craven, the present master of St. John's college, resigned the professorship of Arabic, and Mr. Carlyle was elected professor. The professors in Cambridge are not, as in Scotland, and in most of the universities on the continent, appointed to read

 lectures;

lectures; they are required more particularly to devote their private studies to the subjects of their professorships; to exert their abilities in extending the bounds of knowledge, not in communicating it to pupils. The duties of the Arabic professorship seem to have been in some degree neglected before it was filled by Mr. Carlyle. Dr. Craven is acknowledged to be a profound and various scholar; but his works, and probably his studies, are little connected with the Arabic language; and the preceding professors, for more than a century, have not promoted oriental literature by any exertions of which the memory now survives.

Mr. Carlyle was, in 1795, collated to the chancellorship of Carlisle, which was vacated by Dr. Paley, the celebrated author of the "Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy," in consequence of other preferments. It is peculiar to the chancellor of Carlisle that he visits the diocese, a circumstance, in his situation, which adds greatly to its dignity and importance.

In 1796 appeared the "Specimens of Arabian Poetry," the work by which Mr. Carlyle is known to the public. It proceeded from the Cambridge university press, and is printed in a style of elegance and expence calculated to prevent that general circulation which its excellence, and the interesting nature of the subject, would otherwise have undoubtedly given to it.

The object of the work, in the author's words, is "to afford a specimen of the writings of the principal "Arabian poets, and to form a history (slight indeed,

"and

"and imperfect, but to an English reader perhaps not "uninstructive) of Arabian poetry and literature dur- "ing the most splendid period of the Mohamedan "empire."

In pursuance of this object he has selected short pieces from the principal poets, beginning with the most ancient, and concluding with those who appeared in the decay of the Khaliphat, the arrangement preserving a chronological order as far as it can be determined. To each piece is affixed a short preface, containing some account of the author, and of the occasion of his composition.

It has been observed, that by such a plan a correct view of the merits of the respective poets cannot be exhibited. If the character of *Atticus* were translated by an Arabian with accuracy and happiness, it might convey to his countrymen an idea of Pope's satirical powers; but if they judged of him from this specimen alone, while they remained ignorant of the sublime pathos which breathes in the epistle of Eloisa to Abelard, the wit and imagination which enliven the Rape of the Lock, and the energy and dignity of his Moral Effays, they must form a very imperfect estimate of his genius. The opinion of an author which is founded on a single production will often be false as well as imperfect. Of the English poets who are now read, Cowley, if we regard his general character, is the most rugged in his numbers, and the moft unnatural in his conceits. But if we were to derive our judgment of him from his well known lines,

"Th' adorning thee with so much art
"Is but a barb'rous skill;
"'Tis like the pois'ning of a dart,
"Too apt before to kill;"

we should conclude that he was distinguished by happy ease both of thought and expression.

It was not Mr. Carlyle's design so much to display the merits of the Arabian poets, as the nature of Arabian poetry. It is a common and mistaken idea that an inflated and metaphorical style is the characteristic of Arabian poetry; but he has shewn in his specimens that the poets of the classical ages were guided by the exactest judgment and the most refined taste, and that in simplicity and purity their compositions may be safely compared with the chastest models which can be selected either from the ancient or modern poets of Europe.

The biographical notices affixed to the specimens do not seem to be in proportion to the merits of the characters to whom they relate, but to have varied from the abundance or scarcity of his materials. They are written with great elegance, and are in the highest degree entertaining: he mixes history, anecdote, and criticism; but in many of the cases all the information is not supplied which our ignorance and curiosity require.

In his translation of the "Lines addressed to a Friend on his Birth-day," which contain one of the most beautiful thoughts in the whole compass of occasional poetry, Mr. Carlyle will not suffer by comparison with another translator, who is understood to have been Sir William Jones. The translations are as follow:

MR. CARLYLE'S.

When born, in tears we saw thee drown'd,
While thine assembled friends around
With smiles their joy confest:
So live, that at thy parting hour
They may the flood of sorrow pour,
And thou in smiles be drest.

SIR WILLIAM JONES'S.

On parent lap, a naked, new-born child,
Weeping thou lay'st, while all around thee smil'd:
So live, that, sinking into Death's last sleep,
Calm thou may'st smile, while all around thee weep.

In estimating the merits of the two translations, the simplicity of the one is to be weighed against the elegance of the other. The writer of this article cannot mention where Sir William Jones's lines are to be found, and as he quotes from memory, he may have altered them in some manner, though he hopes not in an essential one.

In 1799, Mr. Carlyle was drawn from his retirement to be engaged in a variety of new and interesting scenes. In that year Lord Elgin was sent embassador to the Ottomam Court, and Mr. Carlyle accompanied his Lordship, not in a political but a literary character. The services which the Porte had received and expected, disposed it to regard us at that time with peculiar favour; and it was thought that an European might be admitted, through the influence of our embassador, into the libraries of Constantinople. These libraries have long been supposed to abound with neglected treasures, and it was therefore determined to send an oriental scholar, who, tak-

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ing advantage of the opportunity which offered, might examine them, and satisfy the curiosity they have excited. The reputation of Mr. Carlyle directed the planners of the embassy to him, as a person whose abilities and knowledge enabled him effectually to promote the success of their views.

He was, according to expectation, admitted into the libraries, and made catalogues of the works they contain. What he discovered in them, lost or unknown to Europe, is not sufficiently known; but it is supposed that he found the manuscripts of the greatest importance more connected with oriental than European literature. His enquiries in Constantinople were not confined to the libraries alone: that celebrated city affords in its buildings, in the manners and religion of its inhabitants, innumerable objects to engage the attention of such an observer as Mr. Carlyle.

After a residence of some months in the capital, he undertook, with a small party, a very extensive expedition into the provinces of the empire. His route lay through Asia Minor, and through countries which had not been penetrated by Europeans since the Turkish conquest. Their journey was not performed without frequent and great dangers. The distant provinces neither feel nor acknowledge the superiority of the Grand Seignior, and the firman which Mr. Carlyle and his fellow-travellers shewed often procured them insult instead of protection. The power is divided among Bashaws, who govern small districts, a few miles in circumference, with independent authority. These are the oppressors of the people, and the slaves

of

of their soldiers. At a place where the travellers stopped to spend the night, two Bashaws had been murdered within a few months. Immediately after they alighted they were surrounded by a number of soldiers, whose conduct appeared to menace equally their property and their lives. In this emergency they applied to the Bashaw, who could not impart to them the security he did not enjoy himself; and their deliverance was owing to the ignorance and cowardice of the ruffians, who expected a more powerful resistance than could have been made to them.

Mr. Carlyle spent some time in the Troad, and surveyed with accuracy the site which has been assigned to ancient Troy. He is not one of those who deny that such a city ever exifted, but he thinks that Homer's description fixes it where it cannot possibly have stood.

After a very long journey by land, he took shipping, and sailed to Alexandria, touching in his voyage at many of the Grecian islands. With Sir Sydney Smith, whom he found at Alexandria, on board the Tigre, he spent six weeks. During part of this period the treaty of El-Arish was in agitation, and the intercourse which it occasioned between the French and English, gave him many opportunities of observing some of those characters who have excited the curiosity of the public, by the memorable circumstances with which they were connected in Egypt.

From Egypt he proceeded into Syria, and spent some time in Jerusalem and other remarkable parts of the Holy Land. The scripture-history abounds with

allusions not only to the nature of the country in general, but to circumstances attending particular parts of it; and Mr. Carlyle might enjoy here in the highest perfection the principal advantage to be derived from travelling over a celebrated spot—that of elucidating the descriptions by comparing them with the spot, and the spot by comparing it with the descriptions.

Mr. Carlyle, in common with all those who have been in Egypt, and had the opportunities of procuring the best information, regards the conduct of Bonaparte in that country and Syria in a very unfavourable light. His errors at the siege of Acre appeared to proceed not so much from want of capacity, as from the total absence of sense and thought. One part of the walls of the city stands almost at right angles to the sea, and another parallel to it, the town standing between the sea and the latter. Bonaparte assaulted the first part, which was commanded by our ships, neglecting the other, which was out of the reach of their fire. He made fourteen attacks, and would have continued to expose his men to inevitable destruction, had not Kleber refused to advance, saying, "*It is too great a sacrifice, General.*"

After having seen Egypt, Syria, and the Holy Land, Mr. Carlyle returned to Constantinople, where he continued to reside during some time. He did not observe any effects of that virulent hatred of Christians which is said to prevail among the Turks; but thinks as little danger attends an European in the streets

streets of Constantinople as a foreigner in any European capital.

He did not lose the opportunity, which was now offered him, of travelling into Greece. He saw the ruins of some of its most celebrated cities, and many of those innumerable places which have been dignified by the actions of its ancient heroes. Among these he visited the plain of Marathon, where the monument of Miltiades still stands. The twenty-two libraries which are contained in the twenty-two monasteries of Mount Athos, employed much of his attention. With great labour he made catalogues of all the works they contain. Many of the monks impressed him with a high opinion of their abilities and learning, and he professes to have owed much to their civility and communicativeness. From Mount Athos, among other acquisitions, he brought a manuscript of one of the plays of Æschylus.

Before his return to England, he made a tour through the most considerable parts of Italy. He has compared the ruins of Athens and Rome, and thinks that the admiration resulting from the contemplation of objects which appear with unexpected grandeur, will not strike at Rome those who have viewed Athens; such is the superiority which the ingenuity and public spirit of the Athenians gave them over the power of the Romans, to whose efforts, in raising monuments of their greatness, the riches of a mighty empire contributed. From Italy he returned through Tyrol and part of Germany to England, where he

he landed in September 1801, after an absence of two years, during which his literary objects and his curiosity had carried him into all the most celebrated countries of the Old World.

In this sketch of his travels, it has not been proposed so much to satisfy as to excite the expectations of the public. That full and precise account which it will undoubtedly desire, must be expected from Mr. Carlyle himself, whom the motives which engaged him in such long and dangerous expeditions will induce to communicate the information which they gave him the opportunity of acquiring. The novelty, variety, and importance of what he has seen; and his power of adding interest to his narration, by the extent and refinement of his knowledge, will render the account of his travels a work of the highest value.

Since his return to England he has been presented by the Bishop of Carlisle to the living of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, supposed to be worth 1000l. per annum. It is said that he suffers, and has suffered since the beginning of last winter, under a severe illness, occasioned by the fatigues and variety of climate he has experienced. We hope that he will soon be restored to a state of health which will allow him to attend to his important literary engagements, and enjoy those satisfactions which must attend the remembrance of his public labours.

MR. HENRY MACKENZIE,

AUTHOR OF THE MAN OF FEELING, &c. &c.

HENRY MACKENZIE, a man eminent by tenderness and elegance of genius, by his love of literature, by diligence and ability in business, and by the attractions of his conversation and manners, was born, as we have been informed, about the year 1746.

His father was Dr. Joshua Mackenzie, of a distinguished branch of the ancient family of the Mackenzies of the North of Scotland. He was a gentleman of great worth and benevolence; and died last year, in Edinburgh, at the advanced age of eighty-one.

The gentleman, whose merits are the subject of this memoir, after receiving a liberal education with the advantages usual in Scotland, chose for his profession to engage in a particular department of the practice of the law; and in the year 1766 became an attorney in the Scottish court of exchequer.

A taste for even the delicacies of the polite literature of France and England had, just about that time, become fashionable in the best society in Scotland. David Hume, Lord Kaimes, Dr. Robertson, and Dr. Adam Smith, had already cultivated history, philosophy, and eloquence, with a success which excited emulation, and in conditions of life from which the same praise might appear desirable to the gentleman, the man of business, and the man of the world, who would have disdained the pedantry of obscure erudition.

erudition. Macpherson's translation of the remains of Ossian, Home's tragedy of Douglas, and a few other successful pieces in the literature of fancy, had been, also, produced, from which it began to be supposed, that natives of Scotland, even while permanently resident there, might occasionally excel, not merely in science, learning, and energy of sentiment, but in those compositions, which required a skill in all the many-changing colours of English phraseology, in the finer diversities of the texture of English style, in those modes of the superficial manners of English life which form as it were the colouring and the drapery of our lighter ethical literature, in the art of touching those keys, of giving vibration to those chords, of educing those sweetly wild, yet exquisitely artificial sounds to which alone the native tones of English passion, and the peculiar energies of English imagination are wont to awake responsive.

The classics, in particular, of the English and French literature of fiction, were, then, read in Scotland, with incredible fondness; but, read as yet only or chiefly by people of fashion. It is with our taste in books, as with our fashions in dress. As the particular form of a head-dress, or the particular cut of a coat, however in itself happily elegant and graceful, no sooner descends to the use of the shopkeeper's smart wife or the beau behind a compter, than it becomes odious to the gay flutterers of high life: so, let even a taste for literary amusement become general among the common people—and the great shall be seen, all, to contend with one another for the

the palm of ignorance; but, let any one species of science or literature have just shewn itself in a country, as a novelty, and be known as yet only as one of the pleasures or decorations of people in higher life—and you shall see them pursue it with a zeal the most ardent, and a diligence the most persevering. With this advantage in their favour, the works of Le Sage, of Fielding, and of Smollet, could not fail to please: they had pleased much in Scotland: but the first partiality for them among the more refined order of readers, had already somewhat abated. Comedy in tears, and sentimental novels were, now, the *rage*. The Tristram Shandy of Sterne, *La Nouvelle Heloise* by Rousseau, the comedies of Diderot, and still, to a certain degree, the novels of Richardson, were the favourite volumes. These even the unskilful affected highly to admire. Upon these, the public taste was formed. A young man, with a fondness for study, and feeling the first impulses of genius might, indeed, happen not to have read them; but he could not listen to conversation on any subject related to taste in the literature of fancy, without being taught to think those excellencies for which they were distinguished, the best virtues and graces of whatever was elegant in literary composition.

Genius springs not up, like an Arabian palace of enchantment, in the desart, without the exercise of visible means in its creation. It is not born with that culture and those biases to which we owe the particular efforts and productions which afterwards distinguish it in the world. One may, therefore,

 hope

hope to be pardoned in this attempt to trace those circumstances in the state of the literature and taste of the time of Mr. Mackenzie's early youth, by which he was guided to try with such success, those species of writing which delight to melt the heart with tenderness, to refine the soul to delicate generosity of sentiment, and to divert the fancy with the elegant poignancy of Attic wit.

His first attempts at composition were poetical. He wrote, while very young, many small pieces in verse. And, though of the gentlest and kindest of tempers, he was enticed, probably by desire of the praise of wit, sometimes to try his powers in satire.

Yet, he, even then, appears to have delighted much rather in the tenderness, the simplicity, and the charming freshness of imagery which belong to the pastoral. His verses took sometimes the form and plaintive tone of the elegy. And, he is known to have tried, also, to accommodate poetry to the ends of ethical disquisition.

From these juvenile attempts in poesy, he was soon encouraged to aspire to rival the admired masters in the composition of the sentimental and pathetic novel. In 1768, or perhaps 1769, he wrote, in his hours of leisure from professional employment, that beautiful small piece, the *Man of Feeling*. It was not, at first, received with the favour due to its merit, by those sagacious booksellers to whom, without any demand of copy-money, he made offer of it for publication. But, this difficulty was, at last, overcome. The book was printed. It came out without

without the author's name. And it had been but a very short time before the public, when every voice was, to enthusiasm eager in its praise. The *fair*, especially, and the young were its passionate admirers. Never were the native sentiments of uncorrupted youth, represented in a light more enchantingly amiable. It seemed as if the work were by some disciple of Shaftesbury and Hutcheson, accustomed to refer the origin of all our moral ideas to unreasoning but delicately sensible internal feeling: and Harley, the hero, of the tale, was, as it were, moral sense all over. Rousseau relates, that, when his *Nouvelle Heloise* was published at Paris; the ladies of that capital supposed the adventures of St. Preux to have been those of the author himself; and were, to such a degree, enraptured with the charming man, that he might probably have succeeded in an intrigue with any one of them to whom he should have chosen to offer his addresses. The virtue of the ladies of Edinburgh would be exceedingly disgraced by comparison with the amorous facility ascribed to those of Paris. Nor was the virtuous sensibility of Harley to be compared with the ardent sensuality of St. Preux. But, we believe, the same fancy that the adventures of Harley were those of the author of the *Man of Feeling* himself; and a similar partiality to a being so tender of heart, endowed with moral sympathies so exquisitely fine, and so delicately good; were extremely common, for a while, among the female readers of Mr. Mackenzie's novel.

Since the names of *La Nouvelle Heloise*, and of

 St. Preux,

St. Preux, have been here mentioned; one is naturally tempted to add, without meaning any insinuation adverse to the idea of the originality of Mr. Mackenzie's genius; that the character and adventures of Harley have been said to be imitated from those of the hero of Rousseau's novel, with a freedom and deviation, indeed, which almost create an original, yet with a resemblance sufficient to indicate what model the writer had in his eye. Harley is St. Preux in all but the fire of genius and of passion. Instead of the glowing sensuality of the hero of the French novel, he is refined to a sainted or angel purity of soul. He reasons little: he needs not to be guided by the cold precepts of reason: he has moral sensibility to keep him ever amiably in the right: but then, his moral sensibility is alive even to a degree of morbid delicacy and tremulous feebleness. His adventures are such as tend to shew his character in all the lights necessary to make us see it fully and distinctively. He is educated in retirement: he comes to town, and there visits some remarkable scenes, and has a part in some striking incidents: he returns to the country, and after languishing a while in love which he dares not tell, expires in a joy too great not to overpower his feebleness, at the very moment when he learns that his love would not be unreturned. All the imagery and incidents of the piece accord with the cast and spirit of the principal character. They are delicately tender; and they are adapted to touch the springs of tenderness in the heart. The author delights in the detail of minute

imagery:

imagery: and he knows to make that exquisitely interesting which would be, in other hands, trivial and insipid. In a work with such beauties, one forgets all severity of judgment in the regard of style. But, the style of the *Man of Feeling* might defy such severity. It is pure, more pure indeed from Scoticisms than from Gallicisms, sweet, and elegant with dignity, but without pomp.

The author's name remained, for a time, unknown beyond the circle of his private friends. But, in England as in Scotland, it was thought, that he must, certainly, be the most amiable of men; and the ladies in particular, were anxiously desirous to learn,—who in the world it might be? A Mr. Eccles, a young Irish clergyman became, amidst these circumstances, ambitious to usurp the praise of it. For some purpose, whether of love, of interest, or of mere vanity, he was, it seems, capable of taking the pains to transcribe the whole work, and even of marking his manuscript with erasures and interlineations, to give it an air of being that copy in which the author had wrought the last polish on his piece before transcribing it for the press. The manuscript was found among that gentleman's papers, after his death; and had, for a time, the effect to excite among some persons who were not better informed, the persuasion for which he seems to have intended it.

The success with which the "*Man of Feeling*" had been published, encouraged its real author to give, within no long time after, to the world, a poem, under

the title of "*Pursuits of Happiness,*" which the writer of this memoir has not happened to read, but which, though not often reprinted, has been much commended by persons well able to judge of its merits.

In the "*Man of the World*" Mr. Mackenzie next produced a sort of second part to the "Man of Feeling." It breathes the same tone of exquisite moral delicacy, and of refined sensibility. In his former fiction, the author had imagined a hero who found all the pleasures and all the pains of his life, with all the amiable peculiarities of his character, in constant obedience to every emotion of his moral sense: In the "Man of the World," he exhibited, on the contrary, a person rushing headlong to misery and ruin, and, spreading misery all around him, by pursuing a happiness which he expected to obtain, in defiance of the moral sense. What other system of moral philosophy had ever the advantage of illustrations so elegant, as these volumes afford of that of Hutcheson, and his pupil, Smith? It was not ungraciously received by the public; yet not altogether with that enthusiasm of delight and admiration which the Man of Feeling had commanded. The Man of the World was but the common character of a person sacrificing all better considerations to the headlong pursuit of selfish and sensual pleasure. This character had been often before drawn, and often with a bolder hand, with happier dexterity, with deeper skill. The Man of Feeling, though somewhat, perhaps, a-kin to the family of St. Preux and of Yorick, was,

was, however, in many respects, a true original. This difference in nature between these two pieces, might, even alone, enable us to account for the inferiority of the success of the Man of the World. Beside this, however, the manner of the author was no longer new to his readers: and that which wants the charm of absolute novelty, wants what is by much the best of all recommendations to the favour of those at least who are deficient in judgment and taste.

When the late Dr. Samuel Johnson was at Edinburgh, in the excursion which he made to the isles on the west coast of Scotland; the "Man of the World" was, at the house of his friend Mr. Boswell, put in his hands. But Johnson, though his own writings afford indubitable proofs, that he possessed one of the tenderest of human hearts, was very far from being willing to acknowledge an unreasoning moral sense, as the true principle of discrimination between right and wrong, in the mind of man; and he despised or rather abhorred the fashionable whine of sensibility, as commonly affected, and very often dangerous. Perceiving, therefore, in the "Man of the World," few original observations on the practice of human life, and nothing in the incidents and passions, that was, at once new and admirably faithful to the truth of nature; he soon threw down these volumes with disgust, and spoke with severe and slighting censure of their merits.

Mr. Mackenzie had the fortune to meet Dr. Johnson, during his stay at Edinburgh, at breakfast, one morning, in the house of the late amiable Dr.

Blacklock. The gentle, modest, and unaffectedly elegant manners of Mr. Mackenzie avoided all offence to the irritable English philosopher. But, unluckily, after Mr. Mackenzie had gone, Mrs. Blacklock spoke with a zeal in his praise, which excited a sort of conversation-quarrel between her and Johnson. She justly commended Mr. Mackenzie, as joining to tenderness and elegance of genius, the most amiable social virtues; and mentioned, in proof of his filial piety, that his father and he lived still together, in one house, in such harmony, that it were difficult to say, whether the father shewed greater esteem and kindness for his son, or the son more of reverence and affectionate attachment to his father. "They ought not to live, thus, together, Madam," answered Johnson, roughly. Mrs. Blacklock, much astonished and even shocked, asked, "how Dr. Johnson could think so?"—"The son, Madam, having attained the years of manhood and discretion, ought to become the master of a family for himself: the order of nature and the uses of society require, that it should be so. If it were the intention of Providence, that parents and their grown-up children should continue to make one family; it would be less rare than we, now, see that it is, for them to live in harmony together." Even this observation could not reconcile the lady to the idea of making that a subject of reprehension in Mr. Mackenzie, which appeared to her, to be the most amiable quality any young man could possess. In her polite attention to her guest, she soon after asked Dr. Johnson to take

take another cup of tea; though he had before declined to have any more. "I tell thee, no! woman!" replied Johnson, with fierce rudeness. They parted with mutual irritation. Johnson afterwards remembered the Blacklocks with respect and kindness. But, their gentleness and benevolence had been so much shocked by the roughness of his manners and the harshness of his remarks, that it was at least with no common exercise of christian forbearance and charity, if they were able afterward to think of him with the same benignity of judgment and of wishes which they were accustomed to exercise toward every person else.

Julia de Roubigné, a novel, in letters, is the last work larger in extent than a tale of a few pages, which Mr. Mackenzie has been known to attempt in this way. The fable is not uninteresting: the letters are written with great elegance and propriety of style. But, the sentiments and characters are out of nature; and yet not among those felicities of imagination, for which we are well content to see the limits of nature overleaped. The events are romantically tragic, and not of pleasing example. This piece has been less frequently reprinted than either the "Man of Feeling," or the "Man of the World." Yet, there is in it, much to give delight to a tender and elegant mind, much that might even transport a youthful fancy to a delirium of wild melancholy and love.

He produced a tragedy, under the title of the "Prince of Tunis," which was acted at the Edinburgh

burgh Theatre. The representation was repeated with applause, for six nights.—Mrs. Yates, then, at Edinburgh, appeared in the principal female character.—It has never been performed at any of the theatres in London.

In the year 1776, Mr. Mackenzie married Miss Penuel Grant, sister to Sir James Grant, of Grant.

Some years after, he and a few of his friends who used to meet, occasionally, for convivial conversation, at a tavern kept by one Bayll, a Frenchman, projected the publication of a series of papers similar to the Spectator, on morals, manners, taste, and literature. They were united in a club which had the name of the *Tabernacle*, and were all, or almost all, lawyers. Mr. Mackenzie was at the head of the project. Mr. Craig, Mr. Cullen, Mr. Bannatyne-Macleod, now judges in the supreme courts of Scotland, the late Mr. Abercrombie who died a Judge, Mr. Solicitor-general Blair, and Mr. George Home clerk of session, agreed to become his coadjutors. The papers were to be published in weekly numbers; and, in allusion to the representations which they were to exhibit of human life, sentiments, and manners, it was settled to give them the common title of "*The Mirror*."

This scheme was carried into effect. The papers were published in weekly numbers, each filling a sheet in folio. The succession was continued for more than two years. The price of a single copy of each number was threepence. About three or four hundred only were sold, in single papers; but this sale, though inconsiderable, served at least to make the whole very

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advantageously known. The succession of the numbers was no sooner closed, than the whole were republished in three duodecimo volumes. In England especially, they were now read with great applause. The approbation they received in London, which for such a species of compositions in particular, is the very Athens of modern Europe, seemed to stamp an authority on the praises of those by whom they were commended in Scotland, sufficient to put all censure to silence. As the authors mingled in the highest circles of fashionable and literary life, they wanted not opportunity, while their names remained unknown, to promote the reputation of their work, by many little artifices, which, though perfectly honourable and disingenuous—for, of none else was any of them capable—could not have been equally used, if they had, from the first, openly avowed it to be theirs. They had the discretion to hide their names from being at all mentioned in relation to it, till its success was complete; and then, the appropriation of the different papers, in a new edition, to those by whom they had been respectively written, served but to renew and augment the public curiosity respecting the whole. They took money for the copy-right; out of which they, first, bestowed an hundred pounds in charity to the Orphan Hospital; and with the rest, purchased an hogshead of claret for the use of the club.

Some years afterwards, conceiving that they had still materials sufficiently fresh and original among them, to furnish out another series of similar papers, they produced, in the same manner, the numbers of the

the *Lounger*, which were equally received with favour, at their first appearance; were collected in subsequent editions in duodecimo and octavo; were at last publicly avowed by the authors; and continue still to be read with pleasure wherever the English language is known. Mr. Frazer-Tytler, now Lord Woodhouselie of the court of session, the late Dr. Henry the historian, Dr. Currie of Liverpool, and some few other correspondents, had furnished contributions, not in great quantity, which were inserted, in the Mirror and Lounger, among the writings of the club.

In attempting to judge of the merits of these two publications, one must begin with owning, that they are but imitations. The imitation of the plan of the Tatlers, Spectators, and Guardians, is, indeed, common to the Mirrors and Loungers, with many other series of papers of a similar nature. But, I doubt, whether there be any other similar set of papers that has less than these of originality to boast, in the two great provinces of ethical observations penetrating beyond the mere surface of life, to the general nature of man,—and of light, airy fictions illustrative of the familiar manners of society. Of serious morality, they have nothing of which the elements may not be found in the papers of Steele, Addison, Johnson, and Hawkesworth. Their dreams have been dreamed, told, and interpreted before: their visions have been seen by former seers: their letters from feigned characters, are merely echoes: their allegorical ironies scarce ever present Humour otherwise than in old clothes which she had before worn threadbare.

It

It is remarkable, too, that though writing in Scotland, they have written rather of English than of Scottish manners. They probably feared, that, if they should boldly venture to mark the leading features of the manners peculiar to Scottish society; they might by this both excite the offence of that narrow provincial circle in which they moved, and at the same time produce a work that would have too much of Scottish in it, to find favour in England. Besides, the spirit in which they wrote seems to have been too much a merely imitative one, to take full advantage of those circumstances favourable to originality, in which their design was executed.

A few of the papers of the Mirror and Lounger, are on topics of metaphysical criticism, and metaphysical disquisition on subjects in the law of nature and nations, such as was then much studied in the Scottish universities. In these, the authors are seldom happy. These essays want precision, from the attempt to give them popular ease and looseness: they are obscure, from the impossibility of rendering ideas so abstract and refined, at once popular and familiar: they are incomplete, because the limits of the papers did not permit them to be extended to the requisite length: and they are often even otherwise of little value, because the opinions in them seem to have been hastily taken up, slightly considered, and often not very clearly and definitely apprehended, even by the writers themselves. From this censure are, however, to be excepted the papers on Dreaming by Dr. Beattie of Aberdeen, which seem, indeed, to be the pride of that philosopher's writings.

In the pathetic, and in delicate Addisonian humour, consists the chief power of these papers: and, in these two species, they cannot be denied to present many instances of uncommon excellence. The tale of the death of La Roche, which aims to convert the deist by the mere force of sensibility, is certainly one of the most tender and affecting which man can read. The letters signed John Homespun, are equal in merit, to perhaps the best of Addison's similar papers in the "Spectator," or of those by Chesterfield in the "World." Hawkesworth's tales in the "Adventurer," may perhaps be thought to excel those of the Mirror and Lounger, in the pathos of general effect resulting from the common power of character, incidents, sentiments, and general design. But, in that pathetic which depends on the minute display of tender and picturesque imagery, the writers of the Mirror and Lounger are unrivalled by those of any other collection of periodical papers. Nor, though there be a greater profusion of wit, and that more poignant, in the papers of the "World" and the "Connoisseur," should we think of comparing even these papers with those of the Scottish writers, in respect to that delicacy, that elegant felicity of wit and humour, which is the most envied praise of Horace and of Addison.

It must, indeed, be owned of the papers of the Mirror and Lounger, that they wear very much the air of having been written by men of fashion. The colloquial phraseology which occurs in them, is not only, in general, pure, but is also that of elegant, rather than of mean or pedantic society. The allusions

are

are to things familiar to the mode of life which belongs rather to the great and fashionable, than to the laborious and humble. It is to the amusement and amelioration of high life, or life comparatively high, that the scope of almost all these papers is directed. They affect, too, a tone of superiority, a polish of address and manners, a nicety and even caprice of approbation and censure, which seem not very indirectly to bespeak the condition of the authors to have been above the level of tasteless vulgarity.

The style of these papers, seems to have been formed chiefly on the models of Addison, Johnson, Hume, and a few French writers. It is never coarse, mean, nor spiritless; but, it is often debased by an intermixture of Scoticisms, of Gallicisms, and of the peculiar *slang* language of Scottish metaphysics. It scarcely ever attains to the ease and felicity of genuine and delicate Anglicism. The sense is sometimes enfeebled or lost amid the multiplicity and the elaborate prettiness of the words employed to express it.

Of the Mirror and Lounger, it may be, with truth, observed, that, as has been said of the Tatlers, Spectators, and Guardians, they sensibly improved the conversation of the best company in Edinburgh and other parts of Scotland, within a few years after their publication. They refined and corrected the public taste in regard to amusements; and, they contributed to connect elegant literature with the diversions and harmless levities of the gay.

For these and whatever other benefits may have been derived to society from those papers, the chief

thanks are unquestionably due to Mr. Mackenzie. He acted as editor of the whole. His papers are considerably more numerous than those of any of his coadjutors, more various in regard to the nature of their subjects, and of superior merit. He easily appears among so many men of distinguished talents, as Addison among the other writers of the Spectator, or as Dryden among the other authors of the poetical miscellanies of which he was the editor. Though we had no other test by which to judge of the abilities of the principal writer in the Mirror and Lounger; we should not fail to rank them high, upon this consideration solely, that in a knot of men so eminent, he ſtands unquestionably the first.

When the Royal Society of Edinburgh was instituted, Mr. Mackenzie became one of its members. Among the papers with which he has enriched the volumes of its transactions, are, an elegant tribute to the memory of his friend Judge Abercrombie, and a memoir on German tragedy, which bestows great praise on the "Emilia Galotti" of Lessing, and on the "Robbers" by Schiller.

He had procured the materials for that memoir through the medium of a French work. But, desiring afterwards to enjoy the native beauties of German poetry, he took some lessons in the language of Germany from a Dr. Okely, then studying medicine at Edinburgh. The fruits of his attention to German literature appeared farther in the year 1791, in a small volume containing translations of the "Set of Horses" by Lessing, and of two or three other dramatic pieces, executed

executed partly, we believe, by Mr. Mackenzie, and in part by Dr. Okely.

A comedy written by Mr. Mackenzie, under the name of the *White Hypocrite*, was unsuccessfully brought forward in representation at Covent-garden theatre, in, we believe, the winter 1788-89. He produced also a tragedy, founded upon the "Fatal Curiosity" of Lillo, which met in representation no better fate. For the English drama of the present time, we think it singularly unfortunate, that powers of wit, pathos, and classical elegance, like those of Mr. Mackenzie, should have been thus hooted from the stage.

A "Review of the Proceedings of the Parliament which met first in the Year 1784," and a series of "Letters, under the signature of Brutus," are political productions which, by their spirit, elegance, and tendency to support the order of government, have done great honour to this gentleman's talents.

He has approved himself an example of every domestic virtue. He has never weakly suffered his attachment to literary pursuits to divert him from the diligent and zealous discharge of his duty as a man of business. He has lived in friendship with many of the most eminent of his contemporaries; the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, his nephew the Lord Chief Baron of the Scottish Exchequer, those eminent Judges who were his coadjutors in the Mirror and Lounger, and many other persons of high distinction whom we might enumerate. By the people of Edinburgh, as to their public amusements, he has

long been regarded as the very *arbiter elegantiarum*. Of any sort of merit in those literary arts in which he himself excels, he has ever been to others a kind and zealous patron. He is one of the directors of a subscription-concert which has long been maintained at Edinburgh, upon a plan highly agreeable to the public. He is extremely fond of the rural diversions of fowling, hunting, and fishing. In all those exertions which have been found necessary, since the year 1791, to support the government, and preserve the peace of the country, there has been no person more honourably nor more usefully zealous and active than he.

His fortune, never uncomfortably small, is not even now invidiously great. His business in the Exchequer yields probably an income of about 800*l.* a year: he is comptroller-general of taxes for Scotland, with a salary of 600*l.* a year: and his other emoluments may perhaps raise the whole amount of his annual income to somewhat more than 2000*l.* He has a family of eleven amiable and promising children.

He is an eminent member of a "Literary Club," in which a few of the most eminent members of the Royal Society of Edinburgh occasionally meet for literary and friendly converse at a convivial meal in a tavern. His conversation is ever the charm and the pride of every society which he enters.

It is peculiarly pleasing to contemplate a life in which the praise of literature is so happily, so elegantly, so gracefully associated with the best virtues of

of social and domestic life, and with the steady and judicious exercise of the most respectable talents for business:—it is peculiarly pleasing—for, alas! the example is singularly rare.

The readers of this memoir may be assured, that it is not the eulogy of a friend to him whose merits it commemorates. Its writer has endeavoured only to mention without prejudice, facts of which he had authentic information. But if, in spite of this care, any prejudices may have influenced him in relating what he knew, those prejudices have certainly not been in favour of the subject of the memoir.

H.

THOMAS BUSBY, Mus. D. LL.D. *&c.*

THE leading particulars of this gentleman's life afford a striking and exemplary instance of self-acquired excellence; and prove that a mind endowed with a strong, natural conception, a discriminating judgment, and a thirst for literary and scientific information, may, by perseverance, hope for every thing, independent of foreign aid; and will ultimately surmount every barrier opposed to its progress to professional success and honourable distinction.

Dr. Thomas Busby was born in Westminster, in December 1755; and is the only surviving son of the late Mr. Thomas Busby, coach-painter, and many years an inhabitant of Blackman-street, Southwark. The education of his earlier years was only

of that common description which includes reading, writing, and arithmetic; nor were his father's connections, or local situation, calculated to awaken in his juvenile mind the idea of higher attainments. He, however, discovered in his amusements so much eccentricity, and novelty of thought, as to obtain among the neighbours the appellation of a *remarkably odd boy*; and frequently produced repartees, and made observations, so much beyond his years as to attract the notice of his parents and friends.

Nature having given him an uncommonly fine voice, the notice and encomium it drew upon him gradually induced the habit of singing; and his father possessing an excellent natural taste, much improved by listening to Beard, Lowe, Vernon, and all the best vocal performers of his time, the youth insensibly caught his manner, his turns and graces, and at length formed a style of his own, which at once delighted and surprised the best judges. He was yet entirely ignorant of music; nor was it till he had attained the age of twelve or thirteen, that his father thought of that science for his profession. An effort was then made to place him in the choir of Westminster Abbey; but Dr. Cooke, at that time master of the boys, thought him too old for admission; calculating that by the time he acquired sufficient knowledge to be useful, his voice would probably fail. He then received a few lessons in singing of Mr. Samuel Champness, and afterwards on the harpsichord of Mr. Charles Knyvett.

He had, however, acquired such a laxity and vola-

tility of mind from being to so late a period unhabituated to regular study, that he made but little progress, except in sight-singing; which he has always said he attained without rule, and he knows not how.

It now being deemed necessary to place him under some master of acknowledged superiority and established reputation, Mr. Champness recommended to his father that real genius and eminent master the late Mr. Jonathan Battishill. From that gentleman he received lessons for some time, when his voice still continuing, and his taste being greatly improved, his father was applied to for his permission for young Busby's performance at Vauxhall-gardens; and he there, in the summer of 1769, was engaged with Mr. Vernon and Mrs. Weichsell, the mother of the present Mrs. Billington, at a salary of ten guineas per week. Vauxhall was at that time much more distinguished for the respectability of its singers than at present. The first amateurs listened with delight to the vocal performances; and he was received with such high and distinguished applause, that other very advantageous offers were immediately made; but the failure of his voice soon afterwards, terminated his vocal career.

Soon after this he was articled to Mr. Battishill for five years as a resident pupil, when seriously commencing his studies, he soon gave such indications of innate genius and rapidly maturing judgment as astonished his tutor: and though, except in musical acquisitions, his mind, when he first left his father's hou e, was almost a total blank; yet, finding at Mr.

Battishill's an extensive and well-chosen library, the opportunity of literary information was seized with an avidity which evinced a capacious intellect, and a *secret fitness* for the reception of polite and useful knowledge. All the time not occupied by his professional avocations was dedicated to the perusal of the best English authors. The consequent expansion of his ideas was incredibly sudden: from a raw, ignorant boy, he soon became a well-informed youth; he taught himself grammar, exercised his mind in literary compositions of various kinds; and in some poetical attempts discovered an originality of thought, and an ear for melody of numbers, which argued uncommon scope of talent.

But he never suffered the praise these pursuits excited to seduce him into a neglect of his musical studies. Both practice and theory were attended to: his hand was in continual exercise; the works of the greatest masters, foreign and English, were daily meditated; and so great was his progress, that at the end of two years he had produced many pleasing compositions, one of which, a ballad called the *Nymph of the Hill*, was published by Longman and Lukey. He already occasionally attended for Mr. Battishill pupils that had been under tuition six, and seven years; and before three years of his articleship had expired he composed some vocal pieces, particularly two double chorusses to words of his own, from the contrivance and science of which his tutor predicted that he would be an honour to his profession; and he repeatedly proposed to introduce him to Dr.

Boyce

Boyce as a phenomenon, considering the short time he had studied: this introduction, however, from a general negligence in professional matters, for which that ingenious master was too remarkable, never took place. This negligence indeed Mr. Battishill extended even to his domestic pupils; and how surprised will the reader be to learn, that all the musical information of his favourite *élève* was acquired almost independent of instruction, and purely by his own energetic and unassisted perseverance.

Mr. Busby's professional zeal, and passion for literature and general information, daily augmented; and frequently after Mr. B. and the rest of the family were retired to rest, he would leave his bed, dress himself, and steal down to the study to read or practice. To these nocturnal exercises of his mind and finger he attributes his greatest advances in music and letters. It was in these tranquil hours that he made himself master of the English grammar, and first formed the determination to teach himself, at some future time, the Latin language and the sciences.

When his articles were expired, he returned for a while to his father's house. Being now entirely master of his time, his musical studies were prosecuted with encreasing ardour. He had exercised his genius in almost every species of vocal composition, but had never attempted any complete drama. He was solicitous for such a trial of his fancy and judgment, and, becoming acquainted with Dr. Kenrick, proposed, that he should write a musical after-piece, which that gentleman accordingly produced, under

the title of *The Man the Master*. Mr. Busby immediately set himself to work upon the music; and had composed the overture, and more than half the songs, when the piece, not meeting the approbation of Mr. Harris, to whom it was presented, the undertaking fell to the ground.

This disappointment served only to strengthen his professional ambition; and, not deterred by Mr. Battishill's repeated declaration, that "no man ought to attempt an oratorio after Mr. Handel," he resolved to try his powers on an oratorial composition; and prepared for the purpose Pope's sublime poem, the *Messiah*, by varying the measure, and dividing the whole into recitatives, airs, and chorusses. When he told Mr. Battishill that he was composing an oratorio, "What!" he exclaimed, "after Mr. Handel! Well—if you have been bold enough to begin, go on; for if any one living can properly execute so arduous a task, it is yourself." Soon afterwards he shewed Mr. B. some of the music; and it is not possible to express his surprise at the style in which it was conceived; especially two of the chorusses. Of this noble composition, produced when the author was little more than twenty years old, we shall hereafter have occasion to speak further.

His musical and literary pursuits were still blended; and soon afterwards he published a set of harpsichord sonatas, and put into practice his former resolution of learning the Latin, to the study of which he adhered so closely and so successfully that, without the assistance of a master, he in less than two

years enabled himself to read most of the Roman classics.

A habit of life so sedentary and abstracted, it will be obvious, could not produce many opportunities of encreasing his connections, and promoting that pecuniary advantage which forms the direct object of men of the world: he therefore found it necessary to avail himself of his literary acquirements by occasionally writing for the periodical publications of the day; and was for a time one of the principal reporters of the parliamentary debates in a newspaper called the *London Courant*, of which Mr. Dent, the author of the farce of *Too Civil by Half*, was the conductor: and some time afterwards he assisted Mr. Pratt in the editorship of the *Morning Post*. He was also for a considerable time engaged to write musical critiques for the *European Magazine*, and Johnson's *Analytical Review*; and much about the same time contributed largely to a new periodical work called the *Attic Miscellany*, and supplied several of the newspapers, especially the *Whitehall Evening Post*, with occasional letters and essays.

About five years after he left Mr. Battishill, the place of organist in the parish of St. Mary Newington, Surrey, became vacant, to which situation he was elected by a large majority of the inhabitants. This circumstance, together with an immediate prospect of other regular emoluments, accelerated a change of life which he had some time been meditating. His professional avocations had introduced him to the acquaintance of a young lady whose merits quickly

quickly fixed his affections; and he only waited for more certain means of encountering the demands of a domestic establishment, to realize the happiness he anticipated from the possession of her hand. This lady, Miss Angier, the eldest daughter of Charles Angier, Esq. of Earl's Court, Kensington, added to an attractive person, a superior understanding, much general information, and a natural elegance of manners, which had still been improved by an early introduction to many of the very first families in Ireland, with whom she had been in the habits of familiar friendship and intimacy.

Mr. Busby's mind had been too much cultivated not to have imbibed a taste for mental accomplishment recommended by polished exterior, and he felt them with redoubled sensibility in the object of his affections. In June 1786 he was married at Kensington church; and resided for some time afterwards in Poland-street, Oxford-street.

His pupils, for whom he was in the constant habit of composing new lessons extempore, were now so much encreased as to occupy the major part of his time: but still he found leisure to pursue his literary studies; and at length undertook the French language, to which he afterwards added the Italian; both which he acquired unaided by masters, and with great facility. About this time his father went to reside at Oxford, where he soon afterwards died of the gout, a disorder to which he had been subject during the greater part of his life, and which had so obstructed him in the prosecution of his busi-

ness

ness as to have prevented his making any provision for his widow; the care of whom, in consequence, devolved on her son, with whom she still resides.

About the year 1783 a circumstance occurred which proved his wonderful quickness of ear and strength of memory. Signora Sestini, then his pupil, wished to have for her benefit at the Haymarket theatre the opera of *Rosina*, but the instrumental parts could not be procured from Covent-garden. The difficulty appeared insurmountable, and she was about to give up the piece, when communicating her distress to Mr. Busby, he undertook to form a *score* from memory; and though he had heard the piece but twice, actually supplied all the accompaniments so correctly that the band was not sensible of any omission or alteration.

Encouraged by the opinion his friends entertained of his poetical talents, Mr. Busby wrote a poem in the style of Churchill, one of his favourite authors, under the title of the *Age of Genius*, consisting of near a thousand lines, which appeared in the year 1785. Its spirit, acumen, and free versification attracted much notice; and had amongst its particular admirers the late Sir Joshua Reynolds and Mr. George Colman the elder. Not long after this, he wrote a poetical address for the appearance of Mrs. Edwards, his pupil, in the character of Macheath at the Haymarket theatre, which was spoken by Mr. Bannister jun. for several succeeding nights. About this time he also wrote and set to music the following song, which has since been

been published by Riley in the Strand. The words will certainly convince the reader that he sometimes wrote with the true spirit of poetry.

Love, Wine, and Friendship.

A FESTIVE SONG.

I.

When the bright god of mirth wakes the social desires,
And excites in my soul all his generous fires,
In a frenzy of bliss and elation divine
I hail the rich gifts of Love, Friendship, and Wine.
Then open to ev'ry invasion of joy,
I feel the soft siege of the amorous boy;
An extacy Friendship bids rise in my soul,
While Love crowns the triumph and laughs in the bowl.

II.

Blest Friendship! with aspect for ever benign;
Exalter of mirth, and enliv'ner of wine;
O never be absent from Bacchus's board;
The god who delights in the joys you afford.
Thou, Love! whose keen lightnings inflame as they dart,
And melt unresisted the juvenile heart!
Still, still add thy bliss to my joys as they pass,
And mingle thy sweets with the sweets of the glass.

III.

Come, Love, Wine, and Friendship, associates in pow'r;
Kind parents of joy and the rapturous hour!
In thy delicate fervors entrance all my soul,
And all passions but passions of pleasure controul.
They hear me—they warm me—I feel their quick fires!
Each godhead approves and each godhead inspires!
The triple delight kindles fierce in my breast,
And with Love, Wine and Friendship at once I'm possess'd.

Never losing sight of his beloved science, he about this time, among a variety of other compositions, set

to

to music the Lord's prayer, the excellencies of which drew the highest encomiums from Dr. Cooke and Mr. Joah Bates, who declared that in depth of science, solemnity, grandeur, and justness of expression, it was superior to any modern composition that had fallen under their observation.

About this time the establishment of the *New Musical Fund* took place; and some few years afterwards he drew up and sent to its committee a project for annually performing oratorios during Lent, on a grand and extensive plan, for the benefit of that laudable institution; and attended some of its meetings for the discussion of the subject. The scheme was a noble one; and had it been adopted, great advantages would probably have accrued from it to the society; but the proposal was overruled from the fear of encountering the necessary preparatory expences.

Dr. Busby has always been a friend to charitable institutions of every description. Very early in life he conducted an oratorio at Freemason's Hall for the benefit of the *Ossulston Dispensary*, so much to the satisfaction of the committee and advantage of the charity, that he was created governor for life; and he has since written and composed several glees and anthems for the anniversaries of the *Surrey Dispensary*, the *Philanthropic Society*, the *Humane Society*, and the *Literary Fund*. An excellent glee, written for the Literary Fund and preserved by that society in their printed collection of poetical contributions, is a specimen of the Doctor's talent in lyric poetry.

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In acknowledgment of his merit and services the learned conductors of this noble institution, in May 1800, publicly voted him a governorship.

After composing the *Prophecy* and several other works of magnitude, he made repeated efforts to bring them before the public, but without success. At the close of the American war he composed an *Ode to Peace* in two parts, which Dr. Arnold strongly recommended to Mr. Stanley to be performed at Covent-garden during the oratorio season: but some unforeseen difficulties prevented that gentleman from prosecuting his design of introducing to the world that merit which he so well knew how to appreciate, and which he would have gladly countenanced.

For consolation in many similar disappointments, Dr. B. constantly resorted to his studies; and not confining himself to music and the languages, also directed his attention to several of the sciences; and soon became acquainted with mathematics, mechanics, perspective, optics, pneumatics, and the philosophy of sound.

About the year 1786 appeared a work under the title of a *Musical Dictionary*, containing not only an explanation of musical terms, but a biographical account of the great musicians, ancient and modern, accompanied with a certain portion of music previously known to the public. This work, which extended to near two hundred numbers, was conducted conjointly by Dr. Arnold and Dr. Busby; the former gentleman taking the musical, and the latter the literary department. The success of this scheme induced Dr.

Dr. Busby to commence a musical publication on his own account, in twelve numbers folio, called the *Divine Harmonist*; partly consisting of selections from the great ecclesiastical composers, and partly of his own compositions. In this work, a copy of which we have seen, we find several airs from "a manuscript oratorio called *Creation*, composed by the editor:" and as this publication took place so long ago as the year 1788, it is manifest that he had anticipated Haydn in the choice of that subject and title. Upon inquiry we find that the Doctor means to bring this composition forward in the course of next winter; and we cannot but anticipate much gratification from its performance; the curiosity of the musical world will, we doubt not, be much excited by the opportunity of comparing the talents of two great masters exercised on the same grand subject.

The *Divine Harmonist* had so great a sale as to encourage him to undertake another work, also in numbers, under the title of *Melodia Britannica*, or the *Beauties of British Song*, comprising a voluminous collection of airs selected and arranged from the best and most approved composers of this country, enriched with new piano forte accompaniments, and variegated with original compositions from his own port-folio: but the fluctuating taste of the public in musical matters is not calculated to encourage attempts to give permanency to the productions of past times, however excellent, and the work, after a most elegant and expensive preparation, only proceeded through a few numbers.

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This circumstance deterred the Doctor from similar attempts; and he again devoted his time wholly to study and teaching. He soon afterwards took up his residence at Battersea: here he kept a skiff, in which, as often as the tide served, he sailed or rowed himself to town; and it is worthy remark, that in these little aquatic journies he meditated the plan of an heroic poem on the subject of Lord Elliot's gallant defence of Gibraltar; and actually produced in the boat at various times some hundreds of lines, which he always committed to paper as soon as he landed. Judging from other existing specimens of his poetical powers, we cannot but lament that he did not pursue this bold design. An epic poem from the hand of a professed musician would be a curiosity in our literary history; and surely the very attempt bespeaks a spirit of enterprise and expansion of intellect which cannot but excite surprise and admiration.

This undertaking has, however, been succeeded by another scarcely less arduous; and in which he has made so considerable a progress as to have already employed his thoughts on the mode of its publication; we mean the entire translation, in rhyme, of that most difficult and abstruse classic, *Lucretius* He has also undertaken with great success the translation of Gregory's *Astronomiæ Physicæ* and *Geometricæ Elementa*. The following lines, selected from his translation of Mr. Dyer's Latin verses to Mr. Gilbert Wakefield, on his preparing for republication the poem of *Lucretius*, with emendations, notes, and illustrations, will shew the elegance and spirit with which he renders his original.

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Be this thy praise—mine vagrant love to seek,
And in thy *Bion* hear *Adonis* speak;
Adonis still by sylvan virgins mourn'd,
Adonis still by Venus' tears adorn'd.
Alas! too far they urge the melting art!
Now Priam's piteous suff'rings rend my heart,
War's direful horrors, and Eliza's fate,
Press on my soul, and sink me with their weight:
Appall'd I throw my wond'ring eyes around,
And tremble while I tread Virgilian ground.

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Lo! rev'rend Homer quits his awful shades,
And seems to listen to th' Aonian Maids!
From Phœbus' hand he wrests the golden lyre;
The god transported owns his equal fire:
Now soothing strains his raptur'd mind compose,
And settled glory gilds his placid brows;
Blind! yet in soul he sees, and tho' deprest,
The pride of genius rises in his breast:
As on that ancient bust his features shine,
So in his *Iliad* beams the bard divine.

In the spring of 1798, a sermon being to be preached at the church of St. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard-street, for a contribution in support of the war, a performer of superior merit was required for the occasion, and Dr. Busby was recommended. After service the churchwardens and parishioners expressed to Dr. B. their high satisfaction and thanks; and Mr. Lowe, their organist, who had been ill for some months, dying in the evening of that very day, he was invited to become a candidate for the place; and by ten o'clock the next morning, though personally unknown to the parish till the day before,

he had the promise of support from three-fourths of the inhabitants: and of two candidates who afterward started against him, one declined the contest, and the other did not gain a single vote.

Notwithstanding the uncommon genius and perseverance of Dr. Busby in the pursuit of literary and scientific acquisitions, from various obstructions, arising chiefly, we presume, from his retired life, it is only within these few years that his merits have become known to the public. The first fair occasion which offered was in the spring of 1799, when his oratorio of the *Prophecy*, composed twenty years before, was performed at the little theatre in the Haymarket. The late Mr. Cramer led the band; Miss Poole, Miss Jackson (now Madam Bianchi) and Master Elliot, were his principal sopranos; and his old tutor was at the organ.

He was fully aware of the general prejudice against modern attempts in that species of composition, and inserted in the Monthly Magazine a spirited and energetic letter on the subject, in which he defended the attempt, and pointed out both the injustice and impolicy of prejudging the efforts of living talent. When the performance took place, he, however, experienced no effects of the prejudice he had feared. The whole composition was most warmly received. The applause commenced with a burst at the opening of the fugue in the overture, and was repeated at the close of every air and chorus. Indeed, the audience were astonished at the originality, boldness, and sublimity of the music.

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This auspicious circumstance at once elevated him to the first rank in his profession, and gave him that acknowledged superiority as a classical composer to which, by his genius and industry, he had been so long entitled; and encouraged him to think of undertaking oratorios at one of the winter theatres; preparatory to which he set to music Gray's ode, the *Progress of Poesy*, with some alterations and additions, under the title of *British Genius*. He also, with the same view, set Pope's Ode on St. Cecilia's Day, and *Comala*, a dramatic poem from *Ossian*. In the following summer, in pursuance of this design, he, accompanied by Dr. Arnold, personally opened a negotiation with Mr. Harris, the principal proprietor of Covent-garden theatre, for the hire of that house for a term of years for the performance of oratorios during the Lent seasons; and the bargain was by both parties actually understood to be settled; but from some cause with which we are not acquainted, the agreement was annulled, and Mr. Ashley senior, whose former lease had just expired, again rented the house. If this circumstance induced any unpleasant difference between Dr. Busby and Mr. Harris, it seems to have quickly subsided; since in the succeeding winter we find him to have been personally introduced to Mr. Cumberland by Mr. Harris, as the proposed composer of the music in a grand dramatic romance entitled Joanna, altered from Kotzebue by that ingenious author, and then in preparation at Covent-garden theatre. This piece was *got up* at an immense expence, and the greatest expectations were

entertained as to its success: but a report unfortunately got abroad that it was intended to rival *Pizarro*; it was therefore viewed with a comparing eye; and being thought in some respects too similar to that tragedy, and in other particulars inferior, in spite of the excellence of the music, it met with much opposition, and was given out for the following evening to a house divided between disapprobation and applause.

The composer, however, in this instance, may be said to have "softened rocks;" for through the influence of the music the piece maintained itself on the boards for sixteen nights. Mr. Cumberland in his preface, not content with acquitting Dr. Busby of having any share in the cause of its failure, speaks of him in terms of the warmest admiration; and after highly extolling the music of *Joanna*, concludes by saying, "what, in future, may not the public expect from such a genius!" Indeed, all parties united in praise of Dr. B.'s efforts on this occasion; and the Queen's cultivated and well-known taste and judgment permitted her name to grace the title-page of the work.

The year following, in conjunction with John Gretton, Esq. he proposed to the Right Honourable and Honourable Committee for conducting the plan for erecting by public contribution a *Naval Pillar* in honour of our brave Admirals and Seamen, to produce a secular oratorio under the title of *Britannia*; to be performed at the Opera-house as a national concert, upon a scale adequate to the great occasion, and

and for the express purpose of encreasing the fund then raising. The offer was accepted: Mr. Gretton produced the words, and Dr. Busby the music. But the Committee, hoping that the King would honour the performance with his presence, in compliance with his Majesty's known partiality to Handel's music, relinquished the original plan of the performance; and after several interviews between Dr. Busby, Mr. Alexander Davison the treasurer, Mr. George Rose, and others of the Committee, on the subject, it was determined that the concert should be miscellaneous, and consist of selections from the works of Handel and Dr. Busby's proposed oratorio. His Majesty, however, was not present, and the performance took place under the immediate auspices of their Royal Highhesses the Prince of Wales, Duke of York, Duke of Clarence, Duke of Cumberland, and the Duchess of York; his Majesty's Cabinet Ministers, and twelve of the first ladies of distinction. The concert was conducted by Dr. Busby and Mr. Greatorex; the former gentleman presided at the piano-forte, and the latter at the organ. All the first performers, vocal and instrumental, assisted. A most brilliant and numerous audience attended, and the concert was received with enthusiastic applause; especially one song of Dr. Busby's, sung by Master Elliot, and accompanied by Mr. Linley on the violoncello, which was heard with rapture, and loudly and universally encored. The complete oratorio of *Britannia* was afterwards performed at Covent-garden for the benefit of the Humane Society, where it attracted a

crowded audience. Madame Mara was the principal soprano, and Mr. F. Cramer the leader. It was received with universal admiration; and every one exclaimed, "why did not the Naval Pillar Committee adopt this oratorio in preference of a miscellaneous concert?" Indeed, so excellent was the music of this grand composition, that Dr. Arnold, Dr. Aryton, Messrs. Charles and Samuel Wesley, Mr. Battishill, and Mr. Shield, after hearing a part of it, signed an attestation of its merit, written as well as signed by Dr. Burney, and presented to the Prince of Wales and the Right Honourable Committee.

In the succeeding winter Dr. Busby was employed in the useful but arduous task of writing a *New and Complete Musical Dictionary*; a work loudly called for, both by professors and amateurs, and which he executed in a style expected by all who were as well acquainted with his literary as with his musical knowledge and talents. The *Monthly Review* for April last pronounces it "by far the best Musical Dictionary in the English language."

Soon after this he projected and undertook the conduct of a new work, under the title of a "*Monthly Musical Journal*," by which the public was to be regularly supplied with the best new foreign music, Italian, German, and French, interspersed with original compositions produced expressly for the work by himself, Dr. Arnold, Dr. Callcott, and other eminent composers. The undertaking was highly extolled for its novelty and utility, and greatly encouraged: but the communications with the continent,

especially

especially with Italy, being at that time greatly interrupted, the foreign materials could not be obtained with a regularity and expedition correspondent to the spirit of the plan; so that after the appearance of the fourth number, it was discontinued.

In the summer of 1800 he was prevailed upon by his friends to become a candidate for a Doctor's degree in music; and he accordingly entered himself a member of Magdalen college, Cambridge, and in the June of the following year became a graduate of that university. His exercise was a Thanksgiving Ode, written by Mrs. Crespigny, for the victories obtained by the British Navy. The composition was performed in St. Mary's church, and heard with delight by a most crowded auditory; and the Vice-chancellor the next day expressed, in a letter to the composer, his admiration of the music and performance.

But the applause bestowed by the university on this composition had indeed been anticipated by a London audience; for on the 14th of the previous month his oratorio of the Prophecy was repeated at the Haymarket theatre, together with Mrs. Crespigny's sublime Ode, and a new Coronation Anthem. Mr. Raimondi led the band, and Madame Dussek was the principal soprano. Mrs. Crespigny, so well known to the world of taste, and to whom Dr. Busby had been just introduced by Isaac Heaton, Esq. of Norfolk-street in the Strand, exerted on this occasion her interest and patronage with a kindness and energy of which the Doctor speaks with the most glowing sensibility Through her personal influence the house

exhibited a splendour almost unknown in the annals of the theatre. The ladies evidently made a point of doing honour to Mrs. C. and the composer; and the boxes absolutely blazed with jewellery. The compositions were throughout received with an applause which greatly augmented the reputation of the composer, and justified the patronage he received.

On Mrs. Billington's late re-appearance on the English stage, the public attention was so strongly attracted by her exquisite performance in *Artaxerxes* and the *Duenna*, that the Doctor thought a new edition of her songs in those operas, with all her variations and embellishments, would be a desirable acquisition to the public; and he accordingly entered upon the delicate and difficult task of taking them by his ear, and acquitted himself with a facility and precision which at once proved his profound science, highly cultivated ear, and uncommon powers of retention.

In March last the Doctor lost his old master, Mr. Battishill, who was buried in St. Paul's cathedral. Dr. Busby, in company with Dr. Arnold, followed the corpse as one of the chief mourners; and composed for the occasion an excellent funeral anthem, which was performed by the gentlemen of the choir under the center of the dome. Shortly after he was unanimously elected a member of the society of *Musical Graduates*, now consisting of Dr. (Sir William) Parsons, Drs. Burney, Arnold, Ayrton, Callcott, Smith, and Mr. Guize. Dr. B. has been heard to

express much gratification in holding a seat among that scientific and respectable body.

Dr. Busby has had seven children, five of whom, three sons and two daughters, are still living: they have been all educated at home; and to their instruction Mrs. Busby has, by her talents and accomplishments, considerably contributed; the Doctor and herself having been their only preceptors.

The Doctor's third son is intended for the musical profession; and though little more than eleven years of age, already evinces powers of the maturity of which the highest expectations may be justly formed. He now takes the organ at the Cicilian Society's concerts held at Painters'-hall. His execution as an organ or piano-forte performer is truly astonishing.

Dr. Busby's style as a composer is a happy mixture of the old and new school In his oratorial productions, we find the learning and solemn grandeur of the former constantly relieved by the elegance and sweetness of the latter; by which an effect is produced at once gratifying both to the lovers of ancient and of modern composition.

Dr. B. is simple in his mode of living, plain in his appearance, and unassuming in his manners. His humanity and benevolence of heart are well known; and his liberal promptitude not only in acknowledging, but in *setting forth* the merits of his contemporaries, must be evident to all who have perused his lives of Mozart, Dr. Arnold, Mr. Shield, and Mr. Batti-

shill.

shill. He is a tenacious friend to freedom of opinion on all subjects, both literary and scientific; and never thinks so humbly of men as when their sentiments are biassed by a name, or founded on any other authority than that of reason.

These qualities of mind, recommended by his professional knowledge, general information, and sociable disposition, have long since procured him a large and most respectable circle of friends, amidst whom, in his leisure hours, he indulges "the feast of reason and the flow of soul."

MRS. BILLINGTON.

TO a people by whom the polite arts are cherished and encouraged with a zeal as honourable to the public taste and liberality as advantageous and encouraging to the candidates for professional fame, the life of so distinguished a vocal performer as Mrs. Billington cannot be unacceptable.

Mrs. Billington is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Weichsell, at one time so well known to the musical world. She was born in London, in the year 1769: her father was of a noble family in Germany; but not enjoying a lineal inheritance adequate to the support of his title and dignity, he resorted to the study of music as a profession, and soon became a very respectable performer on several instruments. His brother, we understand, is still living, and fills the office of a judge at Erbach in Germany. Mrs.

 Weichsell,

Weichsell, who has been dead some years, was a vocal performer of considerable merit, and for a number of years stood high in the esteem of the first amateurs in this country. She studied under the celebrated *John Christian Bach*, and was his most favourite pupil. We well recollect the delight with which we have listened to her in various concerts at which that excellent master presided; and also at Vauxhall, where for several years she held the rank of *first singer*, and gave with great taste and expression many beautiful songs which he composed expressly for her, and among which was the much-admired *rondo*, "In this shady blest retreat." Her style was elegant and florid, and her voice extensive and melodious; though she sometimes affected a *reedy* tone, which at that time was too much in fashion.

Miss Weichsell began to display uncommon indications of musical genius even at that infantine age when Nature generally conceals her mental treasures. Her father no sooner discovered these early symptoms than he commenced the cultivation of her growing talent; and afforded her every possible encouragement, both by his own instruction and that of the greatest masters. Her first efforts were directed to the *piano-forte*; which, indeed, may be considered as the plaything of her infancy. On this instrument she made such a rapid and extraordinary progress, that when she was only seven years old, the writer of these memoirs heard her perform a concerto at the little theatre in the Haymarket; and when she had

had scarcely reached her eleventh year, she appeared in the double character of composer and performer, by playing to a delighted audience a production of her own.

Among her several masters on the *piano-forte*, was the justly celebrated Schroeter, whose taste, delicacy of touch, and elegant volatility of finger, placed him in the first rank of instrumental performers. Fully sensible of the natural talents of his pupil, he spared no pains in their cultivation, and was amply rewarded by the pleasure of witnessing her wonderful progress. Some few years afterwards she had for her master Mr. James Billington, a respectable musician, who belonged to the band of Drury-lane theatre. She had not been long under the tuition of this gentleman, when a mutual affection took place, which led to a clandestine marriage; an event which greatly disappointed the hopes of Mr. and Mrs. Weichsell, who had in view for their accomplished daughter a more elevated settlement in life. Her voice, which did not at first greatly strike by the excellence of its tone, was in a constant state of improvement, and she soon acquired powers which distinguished her from most other performers. At the time of her marriage her merits as a singer had procured her such general admiration, that she was considered as an invaluable acquisition to any manager.

The new-married couple went immediately after their union to Ireland, where the proprietors of the Dublin theatre were happy to engage her; and at that theatre she first gave to the public those proofs of

of vocal pre-eminence which in private concerts had already delighted all the first amateurs. Her fame extended with her efforts, and the English public were so desirous to hear her, that the managers of Covent-garden theatre were induced to invite her back to London: she accordingly returned; and in the winter of 1786 made her *debut* at that house. The piece in which she was first introduced to a London audience as a dramatic singer, was the opera of *Love in a Village*, which was purposely commanded by their Majesties. The house was crowded, and her reception stamped her reputation as a first-rate vocal performer. Her voice, though by no means so rich and mellifluous as at present, possessed considerable sweetness, and her taste was already so far matured as to charm every refined ear.

The great Italian composer Sacchini, then in the zenith of his fame, was at that time settled in Paris: the wish to avail herself of his instructions induced Mrs. Billington in the following year to visit that capital. A mind so endowed as that of Mrs. Billington could not fail to greatly profit by the hints of such a tutor: she quickly caught from him much of that pointed expression, neatness of execution, and nameless grace by which her performance is at present so happily distinguished. Of this excellent composer she was the last and most shining pupil. He died shortly after she had received his instructions, but left in Mrs. Billington a living evidence of his genius and exquisitely cultivated taste. She soon afterwards returned to her native country, and performed

formed for several succeeding seasons at Covent-garden theatre. She now felt a strong desire to visit Italy, where she hoped for an opportunity of still further improvement, and in the year 1794 again quitted England. Her principal object she quickly attained; and adding the excellencies of the first singers of that country to those which she had already acquired, became the first vocal performer in Europe, and displayed her unrivalled powers with such success as to receive the homage of taste and sensibility wherever she was heard. Milan, Naples, Venice, Leghorn, Padua, Genoa, Florence, and Trieste, heard and confessed the wonders of her voice and taste.

At Naples, Mr. Billington, who accompanied her on her travels, died suddenly. Walking up stairs, in good spirits, after eating a hearty dinner, he was seized with an apoplectic fit, and immediately expired.

In this city Mrs. B. received the most flattering attention from every one, particularly from Sir William Hamilton and his lady, who, proud of a singer of their own country who was allowed to eclipse all competitors, even in the very realms of the god of harmony, introduced her at court, and procured her the warmest patronage of the King and Queen of Naples, from whom she received magnificent proofs of their taste and generosity. The royal example was followed by Lady Palmerston, Lady Templeton, Lady Gertrude Villars, Lady Grandison, and several others of the British Nobility, who were at that time in Naples.

In the year 1797, our English syren was again induced to enter into the pale of matrimony; and was married to M. Felessent, a gentleman attached to the French army in a civil capacity, who soon afterwards resigned his post, and now resides in the vicinity of Venice upon an estate purchased by his wife. By his consent she now visits England; and he awaits her return at the expiration of her present lucrative engagements.

Fame had announced far and wide Mrs. Billington's great improvement on the continent; and her arrival in this country was looked for by the *cognoscenti* with the utmost anxiety and solicitude. Fortunately for the musical public at large, her first engagements after her return were at the English theatres; so that every one had an opportunity of hearing at an inconsiderable expence the finest and most admired singer in Europe.

Her first re-appearance was on the 3d of October 1801, at Covent-garden theatre, in that most happy and judicious combination of the Italian and English schools, the serious opera of Artaxerxes; in which Dr. Arne has consolidated the beautiful melody of Hasse, the mellifluous richness of Pergolese, the easy flow of Picini, and the finished *cantabile* of Sacchini, with his own pure and native simplicity.

At the drawing up of the curtain Mrs. B. was welcomed with that warmth which bespoke the high expectations of the audience, and the pleasure they felt at seeing her again on a London stage. At the very commencement of her performance all their expectations

pectations were justified. In the duet of "Fair Aurora," which she sung with Mr. Incledon, she glided through the chromatic passage which closes the first and second strain, with a sweetness of effect which no one but herself could produce, and gave the minor third, at the words "from the idol of my heart," with a delicacy and tenderness which came from the heart, and touched the nerves of the whole audience. In the beautiful and richly-accompanied air, "Adieu, thou lovely youth," she was equally charming; her expression was every where perfectly just, and her *divisions* infinitely neat. In "If o'er the cruel tyrant Love," she was exquisite. We never witnessed a higher degree of taste, or a more sweet and impressive manner than she displayed in almost every bar of this fine and original air. Her ornaments, though abundant, were chaste; and the additional notes at the final close, in which she soared with ease to D in alt, were as ingenious and tasteful as they were forcible and expressive. Her "Let not rage" was also enchanting, and admitted no idea but that of excellence of the first order. The winning softness with which she accented the notes; her high-wrought yet chaste embellishments; the melting delicacy of her turns; and the affecting emphasis with which she enforced the sentiment at the words, "Father, brother, lover, friend," sunk to the heart of every hearer, and convinced the whole audience of the powers of vocal music. In a word, nothing remained to crown the delight of the evening but her execution of the noble *bravura* which

precedes

precedes the finale. In this ("The soldier tir'd of war's alarms") she displayed the triumph of her art. We, who have formerly heard the once celebrated Miss Brent (afterwards Mrs. Pinto) in this fine song, were utterly astonished to find the performance of that accomplished singer so far exceeded by that of Mrs. Billington. With fewer liberties than first-rate performers generally take with songs of this description, she gave it a force and novelty of effect which perfectly enraptured us. The *distances* were hit with a clearness and precision that evinced her perfect intimacy with the first secrets of fine performance; and the variation she introduced at the repetition of the concluding *division*, as also the energy with which she darted to the key-note in *alt*, kept pace with every expectation her previous excellence had created, and impressed us with ideas of admiration and astonishment.

We have dwelt the more on Mrs. Billington's performance in this opera on account of the *superior excellence* of its *music*, which gave much more scope to her powers than any others in which she afterwards appeared either at Covent-garden or Drury-lane.

Mrs. Billington is not the only living branch of her family to whom Nature has been lavish of her favours. Her brother, Mr. Charles Weichsell, distinguished himself very early in life as a performer on the violin, an instrument which he has since cultivated with uncommon success: both his tone and execution are excellent; and his taste, and style of

accompanying are of a very superior description. He was the infant associate of his sister in her musical studies, and has almost constantly accompanied her in her travels, and participated in her honours.

Mrs. Billington has no living issue; but is nevertheless distinguished for her attachment to children; and has actually adopted a little girl, whom she took under her protection at nine years old, and has since placed in a convent at Brussels.

Mrs. Billington, by her journey to Italy, had at one time realized very considerable property; but by the entrance of the French troops into Venice she lost no less than twenty thousand sequins, which she had deposited in the bank of that place.

The extraordinary produce of her professional talents has, however, rendered her little sensible of such a loss: the profits of her various engagements last winter are supposed to have exceeded ten thousand pounds; and those of the approaching season will probably be equally great. She has signed articles for the opera; and no concert of celebrity that can procure her assistance on almost any terms will be without the attraction of her talents.

WILLIAM HUTTON, F. A. S. S.

BIOGRAPHY is never more usefully employed than in delineating the progress of a man of genius and persevering virtue, from the ſhade of poverty, ignorance, and obſcurity, to distinction and independence.

ence. The lives of great men, as heroes and statesmen are usually styled, have much in them to excite admiration; but the life of a private perſon, who has, by his assiduous application and uniform regularity of conduct, overcome all the difficulties of his early destiny, and raised himself to eminence among his contemporaries, comes home to the boſom, tends to excite emulation in the mind of the reader, especially of the young, and bids him "go and do likewiſe."

This remark will apply with peculiar force to the interesting memoir which we are now about to lay before our readers. The subject of it passed his childhood and youth in extreme indigence and hardship, but by temperance and industry he has attained to a state of affluence; and, what is still more observable, has by the publication of several valuable works gained the notice and estimation of the world.

William Hutton was born September 30th, 1723, in Full-street, Derby. Between the age of four and five he was sent to a poor day-school, where he fell into the hands of one of those petty tyrants, too commonly to be found in country towns and villages. This man's practice was, when his young scholars offended him, to beat their heads againſt the wall, holding them at the same time fast by the hair. This brutal treatment completely disgusted young Hutton with books; and he is one among many instances that eminent mental acquirements, and a love of literature, is not always preceded by a fondness for reading in early life.

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The season of instruction did not continue long. His father had several children to provide for, and such was the poverty of the family, that it became necessary almost before the children were able to work, to procure them some employment by which they might contribute to their own support. William was sent to the silk-mill. This was a miserable beginning, for among three hundred children he was the least, and being found too short, a troublesome pair of pattens was placed on his feet, which heavy clog he was obliged to drag about with great uneasiness. In this employment, and at this infant age, he was compelled for seven years to rise at five every morning, to go some distance to the silk-mill in all weathers, to submit to the cane whenever the master thought proper to apply it, (which was not unfrequent) and to be the associate of the most vulgar and rude of human beings. Little in respect to morals is to be learned at a silk-mill, or any other large manufactory, but what ought to be *unlearnt* out of it.

During this period he was sometimes treated, even by his father, with excessive cruelty. From the severity of a brutal master a child naturally turns his pained and anxious heart to his paternal mansion, and longs to pour out his plaintive tale of suffering into the ear of his parent. But how dreadful must it be to find no compassion, no soothing attention at home, after having been undeservedly punished by a savage master. Yet such was the hard fate of young Hutton. His father had no tenderness for his child, and instead of comforting him by kind behaviour under the

the hard treatment he experienced, oftentimes chastised him after the labours and fatigues of the day. On one occasion he beat him, only for losing an halfpenny, so unmercifully with his walking-stick, as to shatter it to pieces.

About the age of nine his misery was greatly encreased by the loss of his affectionate mother, and thus deserted by his father, and left solely to the care of strangers, his life became truly forlorn and wretched.

At the age of fourteen his term of slavery at the silk-mill expired, and he quitted with disgust and hatred a place which, although most curious and pleasing to spectators, as well as productive to the proprietors, gave him a seven years heart-ache, and proved itself, from his observation, to be a nursery of vice.

It was his hard fate to gain but little by this emancipation; for being as yet too young to provide for himself he was put apprentice to his uncle, a stocking-maker at Nottingham. Few employments are more disagreeable than this. A healthy stocking-weaver can barely earn a scanty subsistence for the passing day, and the sedentariness of the employment renders the men pale, unhealthy and spiritless, ftops the growth, and renders weak and sickly the miserable children and apprentices.

He was, however, rising into esteem as an industrious apprentice, and the prospect of a brighter day seemed to open upon him, when an unhappy quarrel caused him to run away from his master.

The history of the week during which he was ab-

 sent,

sent, if every circumstance could be introduced, would be found highly romantic, yet affecting and instructive. It exhibits a scene of complicated distress that has not often fallen to the lot of the biographer to describe.

On Saturday-night, for some very trifling fault, his uncle beat him most severely. This to a youth of eighteen was usage not to be endured; the mind at such an age begins to feel a degree of independent pride, and can ill brook manual correction from any one. Young Hutton formed the resolution of quitting a place where he had suffered such treatment; and the next morning set out with a small stock of moveables at his back, two shillings in his pocket, and a sixpenny loaf of coarse bread, with a small piece of butter in a bag. At ten o'clock that evening he arrived at Derby, and passing by his father's door, slept in a field upon the cold grass, with his wallet under his head for a pillow, and the sky for his covering.

At four next morning he rose, hungry, stiff, and sore, and after a secret interview with his brother, to whom he imparted his design of going to Ireland, he continued his journey, and before noon arrived at Burton, having travelled twenty-eight miles without spending a farthing. Mr. Hutton was an œconomist from his cradle, which character never forsook him, and to this he is in a consderable degree indebted for his present situation.

At Burton he spent one penny, and arriving the same evening in the environs of Litchfield, he went

to a barn, thinking to lodge there for the night, but the door being locked he opened his wardrobe, changed his dress, hid the bags under a hedge, and then took a view of the city for about two hours. About nine he returned to the spot where he had left his bags, packed up his clothes, which he had left under the hedge while he went to another barn at some distance, to discover whether a lodging might be obtained there for the night. This also was shut close, and he returned; but what was his surprize and grief on finding that his bags were gone! He ran about the fields and along the road, enquiring of every one he met for his bags, but no one could give him any information. He found pity, or what appeared to be pity from all, but redress or relief from none. His hearers gradually dwindled away with the twilight, and by eleven o'clock he found himself in the open street at Litchfield, left alone, to tell his melancholy tale to the silent moon.

It is not easy to imagine a more distressed situation than that in which poor Hutton now was. His finances were entirely exhausted. He was an utter stranger to the world and the world to him; he was without employment, and had no prospect of procuring any. All the property he had upon earth was thus cruelly snatched from him, and even *hope*, that last and constant friend to the unfortunate, forsook him. In this wretched state he lay down and sought a temporary repose upon a butcher's block.

Early in the morning he renewed his enquiries after his bags, but to as little purpose as on the preceding

 night;

night; and perceiving no chance either of recovering what he had lost, or of procuring relief or employment at this place, he determined to follow some market people who were going to Walsal. Here, however, he met with no better success than at Litchfield, and, therefore, continued his journey to Birmingham. Upon Handsworth heath this extraordinary town first opened to his view. It was natural for him to be much struck with the appearance of the place and its inhabitants, but it could not have occurred to a destitute youth like him, that he should afterwards attain affluence in this very town, and become its historian.

There were three stocking makers at Birmingham, to each of whom he applied for work, but had the mortification not only of meeting with a refusal, but to have that refusal expressed in very reproachful and abusive language. Little did he imagine that one of these very men would afterwards prove his best friend, and bequeath to him his premises and property.

Evening now drawing on, this isolated being sat down upon the old cross near St. Philip's street, the poorest of all the poor in that large parish, over which, twenty-seven years after, he became overseer.

In this forlorn situation, however, he met with one instance of that humanity for which the inhabitants of Birmingham have always been distinguished. While he was sitting upon the cross, pensive and forlorn, two workmen were struck with his melancholy appearance, and in the language of kindness enquired into his situation. Being informed of his distress, they

they took him to a public house, gave him some beer and bread and cheese, and procured him a lodging for the night.

Having stopped another day at Birmingham, he proceeded to Coventry, where his application for employment was also unsuccessful. There he slept one night in a hay-loft; and the following day pursued his course to Nuneaton, but met with no better treatment from the stocking-makers of that place than he had from those to whom he had applied elsewhere. They had discernment and spleen enough to ring the grating word *'prentice* in his ears, nor could all his entreaties, however earnest and suppliant, prevail upon any of them to give him a single job.

From this inhospitable town he set out the same day for Hinkley, where he arrived about four in the afternoon. Fortunately at this place he met with a person who was a townsman, who, on that account, gave him some work and a night's lodging, but it was upon this condition, that he would return home the next morning.

Necessity had already convinced him that no other course remained to be adopted; and accordingly the following day, which was Saturday, he bent his steps towards Derby, where he arrived at nine in the evening. His father gladly received him, and even shed a tear at the recital of his misfortunes. His uncle arriving the next day, the affair was amicably settled, an act of indemnity was passed, and our unfortunate youth once more returned to servitude.

During the remaining years of his apprenticeship nothing

nothing very particular occurred, except that the love of music and reading began to have an ascendency over his mind.

When his apprenticeship was expired he became a journeyman to his uncle; and he had so well improved his leisure hours by reading, that he rose into no small degree of notice, and his conversation was sought for, and highly valued, by men even above his sphere of life.

His inclination for books increased, but his finançes were so narrow that his opportunities of gratifying this inclination were few and trifling.

His first literary purchase consisted of three volumes of the Gentleman's Magazine in numbers, and as the expence of binding them was too great for his pocket, he put them together himself in a most cobler-like style. These, however, proved a source of much amusement and information. It is observable, that Mr. Hutton has continued attached in the closest manner to the Gentleman's Magazine, in which he has been a frequent correspondent, and from which, no doubt, he first imbibed a love of antiquarian researches. Most of the books which he purchased being in wretched condition, he contrived to give them a better appearance, and thus by degrees he became a tolerable binder. The bookseller with whom he dealt exercised the occupation of binder also; and Mr. Hutton, having frequent opportunities of seeing him at work, made a considerable progress in the art of book-binding. As soon as he could afford it he purchased some old tools and a worn down press,

press, and at length became so expert at the business as to work not only for himself but for many of his acquaintances. Thus, by diligence, temperance, and frugality, his circumstances were greatly improved: he became possessed too of property, which to a young man in his situation was very considerable; it consisted in decent clothes, a stocking-frame, his binding apparatus, and a watch.

At length the stocking trade decayed, and he was without employment. In this exigency he formed the resolution of utterly abandoning an employment which he had never liked, and of pursuing his new business of book-binding. All his acquaintance treated his scheme as foolish and impracticable; but he had fortunately an affectionate sister, whose assistance and encouragement enabled him to persevere and to suceed.

Hitherto he had used the miserable tools and materials for binding which his old friend the bookseller chose to part with, and which, by the bye, he would not have sold if they had been good for any thing. Hutton was now sensible that many articles were wanting which could only be obtained in London. A journey to the capital was both necessary and desirable, but without money it was impossible to accomplifh it. In this dilemma his sister raised the mighty sum of three guineas, which she sewed in his shirt-collar, concluding that he could not travel to London without meeting robbers. She also furnished eleven shillings for travelling expences.

He was absent from home nearly nine days, and

and at his return had four-pence left out of his original stock of eleven shillings. Such early œconomy was a sure prognostic of ultimate success.

He had a great inclination to settle in Birmingham, but he was deterred from venturing to begin business there, from an apprehension that his insignificance would only meet with neglect or contempt in so great a place.

He accordingly fixed upon Southwell, a small town fourteen miles from Nottingham, where he rented a shop at the rate of twenty shillings a year. Having fitted it up with his own hands, he opened it with about twenty shillings worth of books, and thus became the most eminent, or in other words, the only bookseller in the place.

At Lady-day, 1750, he went to Birmingham, and agreed with a Mrs. Dix for the lesser half of her shop in Bull-street, at one shilling per week.

Fortunately, about the same time the dissenting minister at Gainsborough wished to part with the refuse of his library, and offered it to our young tradesman at his own price, and upon his note of hand. Thus he obtained about two hundred weight of books at a very easy rate, and was thereby enabled to begin business at Birmingham in a more respectable way than at Southwell.

His affairs now began to wear a pleasant and promising aspect, and he had the satisfaction of experiencing that his profits were already sufficient to support him: a circumstance not very marvellous when we consider that the slender sum of five shil-
lings

lings was abundantly enough to pay for all his week's expences, including rent, board, washing, and lodging.

A year passed away, during which Mr. Hutton not only found his trade encreasing, but that his sobriety, diligence, and affability had procured him some respectable friends. Among these were, Mr. Dowler, a surgeon, who lived opposite to him, and Mr. Grace, a hosier, and one of those very persons who on his first visit to Birmingham had treated him with so much roughness. By this time, to add to his comforts, he found that his savings amounted to twenty pounds, a sum of no ordinary consequence to a young beginner in trade.

The house adjoining Mr. Grace's becoming vacant, that gentleman and Mr. Dowler immediately pressed Mr. Hutton to take it, as it was one of the best situations in Birmingham for trade. But the rent, which was no less than eight pounds, alarmed him, and he resisted the temptation for some time. However they persisted, and their persuasions at length prevailed over his timidity.

Here he carried on business on a larger scale, and still pursuing the same diligent and economical conduct, his savings accumulated. The urbanity of his manners, as well as his ingenuity and intelligence, soon procured him several valuable acquaintance; among these was Mr. William Ryland, with whom Mr. Hutton contracted a close friendship, which has continued above forty years.

By adhering to the same plan of attention, prudence,

dence, and economy, Mr. Hutton's success in trade continued to encrease, till at length his happiness was crowned with a prize of far greater value than wealth. As no event in a man's life is of more consequence than marriage, so none is more uncertain. Upon the cast of this die the whole happiness of life depends. Mr. Hutton's good fortune in this respect far exceeded his own most sanguine expectations.

In 1765 he married the niece of his friend and next door neighbour, Mr. Grace. Besides much happiness, Mr. Hutton gained one hundred pounds by this marriage; and he had acquired by trade two before. He has had several children; two of whom, a son and daughter, are now living, and are the honour and comfort of his old age.

At the proposal of a paper-maker, an old and intimate friend, Mr. Hutton opened a paper warehouse, which was the first ever seen in Birmingham. From a small beginning, he followed this business forty years, and acquired by it several thousand pounds.

About this time Mr. Grace, his uncle by marriage, died and bequeathed to him property amounting to two hundred pounds.

In 1768 he was chosen an overseer of the largest parish of Birmingham, and had reason to consider himself raised far beyond his ancestors, for none of them, within the reach of tradition, ever attained so elevated a station as this.

His colleagues in office had reason to rejoice in this appointment, for he not only transacted his own share

share of the business, but a considerable part of theirs. His attentions were so minute, and his behaviour so courteous, that he gained the love of the poor, and the respect and esteem of every friend of humanity.

In 1772 he was chosen a commissioner of the Court of Requests, the practice of which soon became his favourite amusement. By paying a constant attendance he quickly took the lead; and the management of the court engrossed nearly two days in a week of his time, for which he never received the least emolument. Two remarks will sufficiently shew his upright conduct in this office: he never had a quarrel with a suitor, nor the least difference with a brother commissioner.—He attended this court regularly nineteen years, and during that time above one hundred thousand causes passed through his hands, a greater number, probably, than ever underwent the decision of any other man.

Of the practice of this court, with reports of cases, he published a useful treatise in 1787, 8vo.

In 1773 he was appointed a commissioner of the Lamp Act for the town of Birmingham.

The year 1779 was rendered remarkable for a variety of losses and domestic afflictions, under which he was greatly supported by an excellent remark of his friend Ryland, which was this, that "there are two kinds of evils which a man should never grieve at, those which he *cannot* avoid, and those which he *can*." A plain maxim, but one that is well calculated to strengthen the mind against misfortune: for if the evils are *unavoidable*, no remedy can be gathered from repining,

repining, but the contrary; and if they arise from himself, the fault and the remedy are his own.

The principal part of the following year he was occupied in writing the History of Birmingham, the manuscript of which being shewn to one of the first literary characters in the neighbourhood, he pronounced it to be the best topographical history he had ever seen. This work has deservedly passed through three editions, and procured for the author the honor of being chosen, in 1782, a member of the Antiquarian Society at Edinburgh.

Considering the variety of business in which the author was engaged, we are surprised, not only at the accuracy of this history, but at the minuteness of research which it displays. It is evident that Mr. Hutton has been no waster of his time, nor yet an inattentive observer of things. That he must have availed himself of every opportunity for reading is equally clear, and he appears to have remembered all that he read. His memory, indeed, is wonderful; whilst this work lay in manuscript he had the whole of it by heart; and if a line of it was quoted, he could have pursued it through the remainder of the chapter.

In 1785 he was subpœned to appear at London upon a trial, which afforded him a second opportunity of examining most of the curiosities of the metropolis. Of these he wrote a very entertaining account, interspersed with anecdotes, under the title of "a Journey to London." The same year he visited Buxton, where he took particular notice of the absurdity of the popular notion concerning *Mam-Tor*, or the "Shivering

"Shivering Mountain," that it is continually mouldering without being sensibly diminished. This, Mr. Hutton observes, is totally untrue, for the mountain has clearly diminished one third, and a considerable hill has been raised by the detached parts of it; and every mountain will do the same which has a perpendicular side composed of loose skerry stones and light earth.

In 1789 he published the History of the Hundred Court, being a supplement to the History of the Court of Requests. The same year appeared his account of the Battle of Bosworth-field, 8vo. with topographical and other illustrations.

In the year 1791 happened the memorable and disgraceful riots at Birmingham. An infatuated and furious mob having destroyed two meeting-houses, with the dwelling house and property of Dr. Priestley, proceeded the following day to the house of John Ryland, Esq. and about ten o'clock the same morning Mr. Hutton's sister came to him, with tears in her eyes, to inform him, that the mob intended to destroy his house the next. This he could scarcely believe, as he was not conscious of having given offence to any person, neither had he mingled with political parties. Captain Archibald, who was his next door neighbour, offered to protect his premises, but it will hardly be credited that this proposal, so generously made, met with the disapprobation of the magistrates, who, though they saw the flames of desolation kindled by a ferocious banditti, blazing around them, would not have recourse to any other means than that of *per-*

suasion, which instead of restraining the rioters served rather to intoxicate them. At three o'clock they attacked the house and broke the windows; but on Mr. Hutton's giving them what money he had, and some ale, they desisted, and took another route. In the evening, however, they returned again, and totally destroyed his premises.

Early the next morning, with the most brutal ferocity, they destroyed his country-house at Bennett's Hill, about two miles from Birmingham. Had he been merely a dissenter, or had he only been president of the Court of Requests, in all probability he might have passed unnoticed, but the union of both in his person sealed his destruction. One person made this speech to them; "If you will destroy Hutton's house, I will give you *two guineas*, for it was owing to him that I lost a cause in court."

While the mob were thus destroying his property, another person exclaimed with a savage kind of triumph, "O! D——n him, he made me pay fifteen shillings in the Court!"

The conclusion of these disgraceful proceedings not being connected with the present memoir, we forbear to narrate. Mr. Hutton was now literally without "a place to lay his head," for the people were so panic-struck as to be afraid to take any of the proscribed sufferers into their houses, for fear of sharing the same fate. At length, however, the master of Vauxhall consented to board them, though at the hazard of losing his property, till they could procure a house. These disgraceful outrages inflicted a fatal blow on the health of Mrs. Hutton.

It is hardly to be credited what trouble and anxiety the sufferers underwent in preparing for the trial which they commenced against the Hundred, to recover back some compensation for the losses they had sustained. Every obstacle to embarrass them was artfully placed in their way, and so great was the expense and trouble occasioned by these artifices, that Mr. Hutton has frequently expressed a wish that he had given up his claim and lost all. At the trial every insult and reproach were made use of that the malice of enemies could invent, insomuch that the judges (Thomson and Eyre) were shocked at this malignant treatment; and the latter observed, "that in the whole course of his life he never saw so much rancour and ill-blood."

Mr. Hutton's part only of the costs of this trial amounted to 884*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* The verdict for some of the sufferers did not cover the expenses, and two years elapsed before they received the small sums which the jury had decreed them.

In 1793 Mr. Hutton resigned trade to his son, and gave up also those public employments which had for so many years engrossed a considerable part of his time and attention.

In 1796 he sustained an irreparable and deeply-felt loss in the death of his wife. To alleviate the distress occasioned by this melancholy, though long-dreaded event, Mr. Hutton took a journey to Barmouth, in Wales. About this time he had recourse to a singular mode of amusing himself. He had a book divided into columns, and began to exercise his

memory on the past events of his life, registering, in a chronological series, the anecdotes in their proper order, with respect to the year, month and day, when they happened. Of these he soon accumulated a prodigious quantity, which, if ever published, will doubtless prove as entertaining as the *Literary Life of Pennant*, or that of any self-biographer whatever.

In 1797 he had again occasion to visit Wales on account of the ill-health of his daughter, and this being the fourth time of his passing through that principality in different directions, he was enabled to write some curious and interesting remarks concerning the different places which he visited. These remarks he communicated to his old friend Sylvanus Urban, by whom they were inserted in the Gentleman's Magazine for that and the following year.

The last publication of Mr. Hutton's appeared in the course of the present year, and is entitled, "The History of the Roman Wall which crosses the Island of Britain from the German Ocean to the Irish Sea. Describing its antient State and its appearance in 1801. 8vo."

When we consider Mr. Hutton's age (seventy-eight) at the time of his exploring this venerable monument of antiquity, we hardly know which to admire most, his thirst of knowledge, the robustness and activity of his constitution, or the keen sagacity of his mind.

But we shall here quote his own words from the preface, as giving most exactly a literary portrait of the man.

"Having

"Having had the pleasure of seeing many antiques of various ages and people, it naturally excited a desire of proceeding in further research; and the eye, unsatisfied with seeing, induced a wish to see the greatest of all the curiosities left us by the Romans, THE WALL; the wonderful and united works of Agricola, Hadrian, and Severus.

"I consulted all the authors I could procure, which strengthened desire; but I found they were only echoes to each other. Many have written upon the subject; but I could discover that very few had even seen it, and not a soul had penetrated from one end to the other. Besides, if those who paid a transient visit, chose to *ride*, they could not be minute observers. Poor Camden travelled it till he was frightened, ran away, and wrote hastily. Horsley was weary and retreated; but wrote more correct. The judicious Warburton, whom I regard for his veracity, rode on, desisted, and then remarked, 'He believed 'he had trod upon ground which no foot had ever 'trodden since the Romans.' He also transcribes Horsley, whom Mr. Gough professes to follow. I envied the people in the neighbourhood of the Wall, though I knew they valued it no more than the soil on which it stood. I wished to converse with an intelligent resident, but never saw one. I determined to spend a month and fifty guineas, in minutely examining the relics of this first of wonders; began to form my plan of operations, and wrote my sentiments to an eminent printer in London, for whom I have a

 singular

singular regard*; but receiving no answer, I gave up the design, and as I thought for ever; destroyed my remarks, closed with regret all my books of intelligence, and never durst open them, lest it should revive a strong inclination which I could not gratify. About four years elapsed, when my family agreed with a gentleman and his lady to visit the Lakes. They enlisted me of the party, in which they found no difficulty, because the temptation lay in the neighbourhood of the wonder which had long engaged my ideas. I have given a short sketch of my approach to this famous bulwark; have described it as it appears in the present day, and stated my return. Perhaps I am the first man that ever travelled the whole length of the Wall, and probably the last that ever will attempt it. Who then will say, he has, like me, travelled it twice! Old people are much inclined to accuse youth of their follies; but on this head silence will become me, lest I should be asked, 'What can exceed the folly of that man, who, at seventy-eight, walked six hundred miles to see a shattered Wall!"

The following is Mr. Hutton's account of the manner of his journey:

"Thirteen months elapsed after we had resolved upon our journey, when our friends declined the adventure; but we, having fed upon the imaginary but delightful repast, could not relinquish it. I procured for myself the exclusive privilege of *walking*, which

* Mr. John Nichols.

of

of all the modes of travelling I prefer. My daughter rode behind her servant; and we agreed not to impede each other on the way, but meet at certain inns, for refreshment and rest. I was dressed in black, a kind of religious travelling-warrant, but divested of assuming airs, and had a budget of the same colour and materials, much like a dragoon's cartouch-box, or postman's letter-pouch, in which were deposited the maps of Cumberland, Northumberland, and the Wall, with its appendages; all three taken out of Gough's edition of the *Britannia*; also Warburton's map of the Wall, with my own remarks, &c. To this little pocket I fastened with a strap an umbrella in a green case, for I was not likely to have a six week's tour without wet, and slung it over that shoulder which was the least tired. And now, July 14th, 1801, we began our march.

"By easy marches I arrived at Birmingham August 7th, 1801, after a loss by perspiration of one stone of animal weight;* an expenditure of forty guineas, a lapse of thirty-five days, and a walk of six hundred and one miles. As so long and solitary a journey on foot was never, perhaps, wantonly performed by a man of seventy-eight, it excited the curiosity of the

* We cannot inform our readers whether Mr. Hutton adopted Sanctorius's famous experiment or not; but the above is sufficient to shew that he is not to be reckoned among the ordinary *pedestrians* of the present day, who just set out to *travel* over particular districts, and then return to sit down in their studies to give an account of their travels.

town (of Birmingham) which caused me frequently to be stopped in the street to ascertain the fact."

Besides the works which have been noticed in this sketch, Mr. Hutton has published "the History of Derby, 8vo." bearing the same characteristics of industry, ingenuity, and humour, as that of Birmingham. There are also many fugitive pieces from his pen, both in prose and verse, scattered in various periodical publications, but particularly in the Gentleman's Magazine. Some of his poetical productions are neat, easy, and pleasing. He had a considerable collection of these, which, with other manuscripts, were entirely destroyed by the rioters in 1791.

Mr. Hutton is a very cheerful companion; he still possesses an excellent state of health; and retains in full vigour his mental faculties, a pleasing consequence no doubt, of that activity and temperance which have ever marked his conduct.

B. D.

DR. WILLIAM THOMSON.

WILLIAM THOMSON was born in 1746, at Burnside, in the parish of Fortevoit, Strathern, in Perthshire. His father, Matthew Thomson, was a carpenter and house-builder, and held a small farm of the Earl of Kinnoul, whose seat, Duplin, is in the adjoining parish. His mother was daughter of Mr. Miller, schoolmaster at Airntully, near Dunkeld. From his mother William received the first rudiments of education, literary and religious, in English reading

ing and the catechism; after which he was sent to Forteviot school, to complete his knowledge of English reading, and to learn writing and arithmetic. Mr. Young, his schoolmaster, soon discovered that his genius was fitted for much higher attainments, and advised his parents to suffer him to be instructed in the Latin tongue. They, though their circumstances were confined, and he was one of thirteen children, complied. Mr. Young being afterwards translated to Inchture, in the Carse of Gowrie, pressed Mr. and Mrs. Thomson to continue William under his care. In this application he was seconded by Mr. Randall, the clergyman of Inchture, who had a son about William's age, to whom he wished to have a companion that might assist and stimulate him in his studies. Matthew had only one objection to the proposal, *the ways and means*. These, however, were supplied through the assistance of Matthew's father, a respectable farmer, who joined with his son in contributing to the education of his promising grandson. William very early shewed that his genius did not consist merely in an aptness to learn. Even when a boy, he was a penetrating and sagacious observer of men. He very readily discovered the character of his reverend friend Mr. Randall, which was both strongly marked and peculiar. The Rev. Thomas Randall was a man of considerable talents and learning, especially in theology; with a dash of *religiousness* which at first sight appeared the genuine enthusiasm of lively fancy and ardent passion; but was not wholly unmixed with policy. At this time most of the

the great towns in Scotland were enamoured of preachers who gave them what they called the real spirit of the gospel, and inculcated faith and grace instead of moral virtue. As the livings in towns were more lucrative than in the country, the assumption of this evangelical garb often promoted the ambition of aspiring politicians in the church, as the appearance of loyalty, and what they call zeal for the constitution, often exalts aspiring politicians in the state. Mr. Randall assisted in the tuition of his son and young Thomson. He was at incredible pains to inspire the youths with a horror against popery. Thomson mentions the following as one of the modes by which he endeavoured to imprint on their juvenile minds a proper abhorrence of Antichrist. He would shew them a map of Europe, with certain parts marked with red lines. These lines described the progress of the Holy Ghost in converting sinners, and making the simple wise. Exhibiting to the boys Scotland, with which they were best acquainted, he traced the course of the Holy Spirit through the southern and western counties, wherein the line had no interruption, that is, where enthusiasm had pervaded the whole country. There were small specks or dots of red in eastern and northern parts, where the Spirit had occasionally reached and established detached outposts, though at a great distance from the head-quarters! The red line was not to be seen in Strathmore, the Stormont, or Athol, these being the scenes of sound and rational religion without puritanical fanaticism. An extraordinary portion of

oker was placed upon Stirling, an excellent benefice, afterwards held by this spiritual geographer himself. The contemplation of such a mixture of absurdity with religious profession tended to give the youthful mind of William rather a wrong notion on the subject of religion in general, before his judgment was sufficiently matured to distinguish between genuine piety and the freaks or fancies of its professors. The same character made a very different impression on William Thomson, a boy of extremely strong parts and strong passions, and on his companion, Thomas Randall the younger, a boy of very moderate abilities, mild and plastic. The former, bold and original, thought for himself, imbibed no portion of his ghostly director's spiritual sentiments, and perhaps rather verged to the opposite extreme. The latter, a mere creature of example and authority, became the very saint that his father wished to form. After William had been near three years at Inchture, his schoolmaster Mr. Young dying, he was sent to the grammar-school at Perth, and his comrade to Haddington. The worthy clergyman, who easily discerned the uncommon abilities of William, and who had not found out that he was somewhat wanting in spiritual grace, desired earnestly to preserve the intimacy between him and his son, and exhorted the boys to maintain an epistolary correspondence; but the totally different casts of their respective characters rendered this wish unavailing.

Arrived at Perth, William very soon attracted the notice of Mr. Cornfute, master of the school, eminent

nent for preceptorial ability and success. This gentleman was particularly remarkable for his thorough comprehension of a pupil's powers and dispositions. He predicted that William would possess, and if opportunity admitted and incited exertion, display abilities equal to the most illustrious* scholar of his predecessor.

Having made great proficiency in the classics, William at fifteen years of age was sent to St. Andrew's university. The class in which he was placed contained a greater number than usual of very good scholars. Among these, several gentlemen have since attained distinction in their respective professions and departments. These were George Hill, now principal of St. Andrew's, successor of Robertson as the leader of the General Assembly, and a celebrated preacher; Dr. Moncrief, now rising so high in medical reputation at Bristol; Mr. Neil Fergusson, who having attained great professional and general respectability as an advocate, and thereby an office of extensive and important trust, is expected speedily to exchange the black for the red robes; Mr. John Playfair, now professor of mathematics at Edinburgh, and one of the most profound philosophical scholars of the age;† and the Hon. Thomas Erskine, who, though not more than twelve years

* William Murray, afterwards Earl of Mansfield, received his first literary instructions from Mr. Martin of Perth, the Busby of Scotland.

† See Public Characters for 1799-1800, in the life of Fergusson; and for 1800-1801, in the life of Dugald Stewart.

old,

old, began the study of mathematics in the same class. William at St. Andrew's established a very high character as a classical scholar, and a still higher as a profound metaphysician. By the time he had been two years at St. Andrew's, the professors considered him as a young man of extraordinary genius and acquirements. The Earl of Kinnoul, a nobleman of a very respectable moral character, was, with moderate capacity, well skilled in the ancient languages, and in several other branches possessed considerable knowledge; sought the acquaintance of literary men, and was in the vacations often visited by the professors of St. Andrew's university. In the summer of 1763, some of these gentlemen mentioned to his Lordship William Thomson, the son of one of his tenants, as a youth of great promise, and highly deserving of his noble and liberal patronage. The Earl took an early opportunity of sending for Thomson, examined him himself in Horace, Juvenal, and Cicero, prescribed themes for essays, was not only satisfied but highly delighted with the knowledge and genius of a boy born on his own estate, and not yet seventeen years of age; and resolved thenceforward to take charge of the young man himself. He received him into the family, and entrusted him with the care of the library; consisting of a very large collection of books, including the best writings in ancient and modern languages. This appointment proved very beneficial to William's mind. Besides his own desire of knowledge, he was farther stimulated by the wish of pleasing his patron. The Earl

was

was generally at his country-seat, was a great reader himself, and his sitting-room was so disposed that he had the library under his eye, and could see how William was employed. Meanwhile, William went through the philosophy course at college with great and increasing reputation. His patron, a pious man, was much attached to the clergy, and held the sacred profession in very high estimation; he had also several livings in his own gift; and for these reasons he destined William for holy orders. His Lordship, indeed, totally mistook the young man's character. Thomson was by nature and study best adapted for a situation in which advancement would follow ability. Had his patron educated him for the Scottish bar, he might, and most probably would, have been at its head; and would have not only, by his quickness, acuteness, and strength of understanding, together with the most retentive memory, comprehended all the varieties of law and decision, and perceived their bearings in any given case, but through the details of statute, decree, and custom would have risen to the philosophy of jurisprudence. Had abilities as certainly tended to aggrandize their possessor in the church of Scotland as in the law, his dispositions and habits were by no means so fitted for the one as the other. Of an open and social turn, William was much inclined to convivial parties. Excelling in wit and humour as well as in deep philosophy, his company was in great request among his fellow students, and other gentlemen with whom he happened to become acquainted. Ardent in all his passions,

sions, he was fully sensible of the powers of female charms; and, though not more addicted to gallantry than most other young men of twenty, he was not so complete an ascetic as the strictness of the Scottish church required. His patron, however, knowing nothing of this part of William's character, stimulated him to close application in theological studies. He recommended Thomson to his brother,* Dr. Drummond, Archbishop of York, who once every two years spent a month at Duplin. The Earl did not intend the young man to be brought up for English orders, he merely wished the advice of so able a divine (as he presumed an archbishop must be) concerning the books most proper to be read to consummate William's knowledge of theology. Being chancellor of the university of St. Andrew's, and having great influence in the disposal of professorships, the Earl destined William to fill one of the chairs, but more particularly that of divinity. His chief object therefore was, to render him a sound and able theologian; and though controversial divinity makes but a small part of Thomson's literary acquirements, yet he collected and still retains stores of that kind of learning far surpassing most professors. Having left the philosophy college, he proceeded to the divinity college at St. Andrew's, which he attended for six years. At the university, William's superiority appeared most conspicuous in exercises that required original thinking, powerful rea-

* Father to the present Earl of Kinnoul.

soning,

soning, and inventive genius. In learning prescribed lessons, he was sometimes surpassed and often equalled by plodding industry unassisted by any extraordinary capacity. Of those, Thomson to this day gives the following description, very extensively applicable to many adventurers in literature. "There were (he says) ——— ——— and ——— who were always *straining hard to be men of genius:* these had great emulation without proportionable capacity. They acquired the ideas of others without digesting or arranging them, much less inventing themselves. These passed with many, and still pass, as men not only of great erudition, but superior ability." At this time composition was very generally cultivated in the Scottish university, and though the excellence attained in it added such charms to philosophy and wisdom, it considerably facilitated imposture. Splendid diction and harmonious periods concealed frivolous observations, feeble and futile reasoning. Preachers acquired fame by melodious inanity. In the divinity college, the man of the highest philosophical powers, of William's comrades, was Mr. John Playfair; and next to him Mr. John Robertson, now minister in an obscure parish called Little Dunkeld, but fit for succeeding the illustrious Reid as professor of pneumatology and ethics. There were, however, some others who gained more prizes,* and got more temporary praise, than either Robertson, or Playfair, or Thomson.

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* Dryden and Burke acquired fewer academical honours than many common men. See their respective lives.

All the younger students looked up to Thomson as by far the first scholar and ablest man of the university; an opinion which those who have known him since have carried to a much greater extent. Lord Kinnoul having procured for his *protegé* one of the exhibitions called King's Bursaries, and being also liberal himself, William was, comparatively with other St. Andrew's students of theology, rather in tolerable circumstances. Having been ten sessions at St. Andrew's, he, with the consent of his Lordship, went to the university of Edinburgh for two years more. There he enlarged the circle of literary acquaintance. Being introduced by his patron to the respectable Blair and the illustrious Robertson, he was treated with great attention by these gentlemen, who readily discerned in William genius and erudition that might make him an ornament to that order which derived so much lustre from themselves. Here he first formed with Mr. Dugald Stewart that intimacy which, as we have elsewhere remarked, has continued through their lives.* In Edinburgh, Thomson was highly admired in the literary clubs, especially for the depth of his metaphysical philosophy; for his moral and political science; for the force of his direct reasoning, and the ingenuity of his analogies. He also possessed very extensive and multifarious detail, which, when requisite, he most readily and happily classed and applied, from the original compass and generalizing habits of his powerful un-

* See Public Characters for 1800, life of Dugald Stewart.

derstanding. His knowledge of mankind, of living manners, and of the actual state of British society, was very much increased by his situation at his patron's. Great numbers of intelligent men, of various professions and pursuits, resorted in summer from different quarters to the hospitable mansion of Dupplin. These with much pleasure sought the conversation of Thomson, from which they received entertainment or information. With strangers his Lordship frequently sent Thomson on tours to view the country, the compartments, striking features, and physical and moral character, of which he very thoroughly understood, and could very ably exhibit. In recounting the particulars of some of these tours, he often mentions a circumstance that illustrates the diversity of commercial ideas, or rather terms, in different parts of the kingdom. Accompanying a great London merchant on a tour to Taymouth, the picturesque and grand abode of the Earl of Breadalbane, so much admired by visitors of the Highlands, they, at a village called Logieraite, met with two persons who assisted the servants in fording the horses. The London gentleman conversing with these peasants, asked what their professions were? They both immediately answered, *Merchants*, and that they were going to a neighbouring fair with their packs. The stranger was much amused with the idea of such merchants. William, however, observed, that that was an early stage of mercantile progress in the general course of commerce.

Thomson, being now licensed to be a preacher, the first

first degree of Scotch orders, his patron was desirous that he should become assistant to the clergyman of the parish in which Duplin was situated, with the reversion of the living, then held by an old gentleman named Ranken; and proposed to allow a liberal salary out of his own pocket, so that the minister might be relieved from duty without a diminution of income. This intention was intimated to Mr. Ranken, who received it with displeasure, and, like the archbishop of Grenada, seemed very indignant that any person should presume to discover that he was becoming old. The Earl, disappointed in this project, and seeing no prospect of a speedy vacancy in his own immediate neighbourhood, recommended his pupil to his friend the Earl of Hopetoun, patron of many livings much nearer Edinburgh, the chief seat of Scotch literature. Lord Hopetoun promised Thomson the first vacancy in his gift, if he should not then have a more advantageous benefice. Meanwhile Thomson continued to preach for clergy in the neighbourhood, according to the custom of Scotch licentiates, and also continued to superintend the Duplin library. In this repository he one day found a work, that to an antiquarian might have appeared a literary discovery. This was a Latin treatise, purported to be a letter of Archimedes to the King of Syracuse, in which the renowned mathematician, master of the laws of reasoning, uses against the credibility of miracles, precisely the same argument which is employed by Hume. Archimedes cannot believe the fables of the poets, and the prodigies re-

corded by historians, *because he has no experience of such things himself, nor ever knew any one who had such experience*, and because, as far as he knows of the common course of nature, it is uniformly in opposition to tales of miracles, prodigies, and deviations from the regular phenomena of nature. Thomson discovered this production to have come from the pen of the celebrated Dr. Pitcairn. On informing his Lordship of the book which he had been perusing, the Earl told him, he presumed it had been given to his father by the author, with whom the late Earl had been well acquainted; and desired William to translate it into English, which task he performed to the great satisfaction of Lord Kinnoul and his literary friends. Lord Kinnoul had supposed with many others, that Hume denied the truth and the possibility of miracles; Thomson proved to him, that Hume's real doctrine is not, that miracles are impossible, but improbable; that we have no proper evidence of miracles, but the evidence of experience that they never existed. That this was the doctrine of Hume, though erroneous, his patron was perfectly convinced, by passages referred to by Thomson.

Whatever influence or power William Thomson could establish, either with a great man, any set of men, or society in general, he could attain only by indirect means. If he had been in public life, he might have commanded high situation, by the extent of his capacity, the masculine force of ratiocinative eloquence, or by parliamentary ability. He would not have *stolen* favour by artifice and finesse. Without any

any very tedious research, a reader of political history may perhaps admit that it is possible for such a character to be supplanted by a less capable, but more crafty competitor. Such are to be seen in the houses of 'squires and lords as well as in the palaces of kings. The transcendent ability of Thomson inspired envy into many of his contemporaries, and into those who sought the favour of Lord Kinnoul, jealousy. As such could not raise themselves to any thing near an equality with Thomson, they tried to debase him to a level with themselves. One divine in particular had an eye to the most lucrative benefices probably about to become vacant, for himself and a companion of his theological studies, with whom he was very nearly connected. To facilitate this scheme it was necessary to remove Thomson out of the way. About such a house as Duplin toadeaters were not wanting. One of these, a female, into whom celibacy infused additional asperity, and hardened rigid orthodoxy, was much delighted with the clergymen in question, because, though not very deep, they were evangelical preachers. Through this toadeater these divines suggested to Lord Kinnoul, that an opportunity opened for procuring the reversion of a good living to their much-respected friend, Mr. Thomson: that old Mr. Porteus of Monivaird would be extremely thankful for such an assistant ordained as his successor. Porteus, who had been predisposed by them for this arrangement, coincided; and his Lordship agreed. Thomson, though he discerned the influence and motives of the *secret advisers*, and was himself averse

to any appointment that would cause his absence from Duplin at a time when his presence was necessary to counteract hostile machinations, yet would not refuse an offer intended, he well knew, by his patron, for his benefit. The Earl promised that his new employment should not impede his exertions in his favour. He allowed Thomson fifty pounds a-year out of his private purse during the life of Mr. Porteus, and obtained twenty pounds more from the landholders. Thomson was accordingly ordained. The presbytery of Auchterarder, to which the parish of Monivaird belonged, was remarkable for religious gloom and fanatical austerity.* If a minister would be popular here, it was necessary for him to be rigidly severe in his manners, as well as rigorously adherent to all the horrors of puritanical orthodoxy. Thomson was neither the one nor the other. He associated more with the lairds, who are generally free and jovial, than with the ministers and elders; he amused himself with hunting and fishing; nay, he had even the ungodliness to play on the violin. Indeed, in the presbytery, he acquired the character of a *bon vivant* and pleasant companion, rather than that of a godly minister. His sermons cost him little trouble. By meditating a few minutes on the Sunday-morning, he was able to deliver a discourse replete with sense and eloquence, while some of his brethren were at hard labour through the whole week, to strain out a sufficient quantity of mystical nonsense. This difference of character

* See Newte's Tour through Scotland and England, p. 251.

character and talents made Thomson very unpopular with some of his brethren. Though, on the whole, he was much liked even in the presbytery of Auchterarder. In his own parish he was extremely beloved, not only by the gay Highlanders, but even by the grave and somewhat melancholy Lowlanders.* Being ordained in 1776, the following year he acquired very great fame, by a speech which he delivered in the General Assembly, and on the following occasion :—A person of the name of Lawson, whose father was obnoxious to some of the orthodox clergy, had applied for a licentiate's orders. Against the young man's character and qualifications there could be no objection. Some of the ministers, however, opposed him on account of an extreme uncouthness in his manners and great ignorance of the world, and particularly of every thing approaching to genteel life; although his family possessed no inconsiderable estate in the parish of Auchterarder. The real truth was, that Campbell, the minister of Auchterarder, entertained a grudge at Mr. Lawson's father, for having opposed his appointment to the kirk of Auchterarder. Thomson, who was chosen in 1777 one of the deputies or representatives of the presbytery in the General Assembly, to which Mr. Lawson had appealed, supported the appeal that had been made by Mr. Lawson, on the ground that students of divinity have claims to ordination, having gone through

* The parish of Monivaird, on the frontier of the Grampians, descends into the valley of Strathern.

the prescribed course of study, if nothing can be urged against their literary attainments, or their moral character, although they should be deficient in what the French call *petites mouers*, or manners: "The churches of the Reformation (said Mr. Thomson, after a good deal of serious reasoning), in general, but that of Scotland in particular, have been much indebted to rustic apostles; and in the presbytery of Auchterarder, in particular, this excessive studiousness of fashion and politeness is but a novelty. Such an apostle appeared near two thousand years ago on the banks of the Jordan, preaching repentance, and announcing the approaching reign of grace and the remission of sins. The world confessed his right to preach a doctrine he so well practised, and the united effect of precept and example was prodigious. But had this preacher, in the spirit of Elias, come, or should he yet appear on the banks of the Ern, and seek the communion of our good presbytery, begirt, as he was, with a leathern belt, clothed in the skin of a camel, and chewing the while his locusts and sucking his wild honey: 'Pray, Sir, who is your barber? We should be ashamed to be seen with you on the *town-lone** of Auchterarder." At these words the whole assembly was moved with laughter, and his Grace the Commissioner himself, (who, in the Assembly, represents the person of the King), the Earl of Dalhousie, relaxing his gravity, laughed heartily. At his table, a few

* The street.

days

days thereafter, he took much notice of Mr. Thomson, and said, "We are all indebted to you, Mr. Thomson, you really made us laugh a great deal." But laughter was not the only emotion excited by Mr. Thomson: he was equally successful in rousing sympathy with Lawson, and indignation against Campbell, as we learn from the Rev. Mr. Macauley, a friend of Lawson's, who published Mr. Thomson's speech, or the substance of it, in the Caledonian Mercury. The decision in Lawson's case was of great importance to all students of divinity, to all who might entertain prospects of settling relations or dependents in church-livings, and to the unity and very existence of the church of Scotland, as Mr. Thomson shewed, to the satisfaction and approbation of the Assembly. And though there was on this question about Lawson, as it was treated by Thomson, a great deal of the ludicrous, it was considered by Dr Robertson and his friends as a very serious question. The presbytery of Auchterarder, when pushed from the ground of rejection they had taken, said, that they had an arbitrary power of receiving or rejecting a candidate for being received on trial, without being accountable to the General Assembly, or any other court, than that of their own conscience. This presbytery was distinguished from all the presbyteries in Scotland by puritanical rigour of discipline, though not by any means of purity of manners; by a Pharisaical pride, and a spirit of refractiousness against the authority of the Church. They were not satisfied with the *Confession of Faith*, nor

nor yet even the *Solemn League and Covenant*, but framed a creed, known for half a century by the name of the *Auchterarder Creed.* It was distinguished by the highest pitch to which Antinomianism could be strained; by the position that very few indeed were to be saved though many were called; and that hell fire was not a metaphor, but that the bodies of the ungodly would be re-united to their souls, for the purpose of being burned, though not consumed, by an intense elementary fire, to all eternity. This presbytery pretended, in a word, to be an independent church by itself, and in all cases, being best acquainted with local circumstances, to set at nought the decisions of the Assembly, even those for the induction of ministers into church-livings by the law of patronage, and, in all cases, to do what they themselves conceived to be for the interest of the kirk, and the glory of God and the good of souls. So that the question of Lawson was ultimately connected with that system of subordination, unity, and alliance between the church and the state, for which Dr. Robertson had with so much honour and success contended.

During the few years that Mr. Thomson was minister of Monivaird, he was invited by Dr. Robertson to correspond with him, which he did with much pleasure to himself, and as much amusement, as we have been well informed, to Dr. Robertson, who always spoke of Mr. Thomson with great kindness, and an apparent anxiety for his welfare. The celebrity acquired by Mr. Thomson at the General Assembly

Assembly was very pleasing to his patron, the Earl of Kinnoul. The living hunters, amounting to three in all, when they went to Duplin, where the clergy of all parts were always welcome, admitted that Mr. Thomson possessed great talents; and lamented that he should not put them to a better use. They said every thing against Lawson, whom they represented as devoid of common sense. They exaggerated Thomson's convivial indulgences, and began to make an impression on the Earl. Indeed, his Lordship might have long seen, that William Thomson was little fitted for being a clergyman where so much rigidness was required. Thomson's pleasureable propensities, which he was supposed not always to confine within the bounds which ascetic puritanism prescribes, though no instance was accurately ascertained, yet were the subjects of reports, that, pervading the country, reached the ear of his patron. Thomson deemed it expedient to resign his charge; and not chusing to seek another church living in a less censorious place, he resolved to bid adieu to Scotland, and to try his fortune in London, a scene much more suitable to first-rate genius and learning than the presbytery of Auchterarder. Mr. Thomson's noble patron, in whose breast an affectionate concern for one, whom, from his seventeenth year, he had brought up and educated in his own family, was not wholly extinguished by a conduct, certainly not altogether becoming a minister of the gospel, gave orders to Mr. Henry Fowler, one of the principal clerks of the Treasury, and who, like Thomson,

 had

had been brought up in his own family, to pay him his yearly allowance as usual, until he should feel his way in London. Mr. Thomson did not call for it more than two or three years; whether that, in so short a time he had wrought himself into tolerably good circumstances, or that he was desirous, from vanity or pride, to have it thought, in his native country, that he was so. The circumstance of his receiving his pension from the Earl of Kinnoul, through a clerk of the Treasury, gave rise to a very droll incident. As he came out of the treasury, the very first time he went to draw his 50l., he was met by Professor Dunbar of Aberdeen, whose great object it was, by political writing, to make himself of consequence to Government. As they walked together along Parliament-Street, Dr. Dunbar asked Thomson where he was going? whether they might not go some where and dine together? Thomson, without hesitation, told him, that he was going to Mr. Drummond's the banker, to get money for a draft from Mr. Fowler, and that he would then be in proper circumstances to dine with him. He told Dunbar that he might go to Drummond's along with him. He did so; saw the money paid; and was immediately convinced that, though he himself had not obtained any thing, and scarcely any attention, on account of his essays, this fellow had already been taken into the pay of the Treasury. After dinner he fairly put the question, whether he was not in the pay of the ministry? Thomson, to teize and vex Dunbar, confirmed him in the belief that it was so, by

by slightly denying it, or evading the question, and turning the subject.

Soon after his arrival in London, an event happened, tending to procure him distinction among men of letters. Dr. Robert Watson, author of the History of Philip II. died, leaving his manuscript history of Philip III. about half finished. The guardians of his orphan daughters were, Dr. Robertson, Dr. Blair, that distinguished patriot Mr. Dempster, and James Shaw, Esq. author of the Sketches of the Netherlands, son of the late Professor Shaw of St. Andrew's, and uncle to the Misses Watson. These Gentlemen conceived that the manuscripts might be revised, carried on, completed, and advantageously sold for the benefit of their wards. It was proposed by Drs. Blair and Robertson, who highly prized the abilities of Mr. Thomson, that the task should be committed to him, to which the other guardians readily agreed. Mr. Thomson performed the undertaking to their most complete satisfaction, as the writer of this article knows from authentic documents. Dr. Adam Smith said Mr. Thomson's part was incomparably the best. "Dr. Maclean of the Hague (said Smith), who was writing of those times and affairs, was very much afraid of Dr. Watson, and Dr. Watson was very much afraid of Dr. Maclean; but I could have told them they had little occasion to be afraid of one another. There was one, of whom they little thought, and who did not possess half their advantages of leisure and libraries, who was formidable to both."—The work was sold

to

to great advantage, and brought considerable literary fame to its finisher. Dr. Chalmers, a Scots clergyman of the county of Fife, and highly valued by the literary men of the country, for wit, erudition, and philosophy, formed so high an opinion of Thomson's abilities, that he proposed to commit a manuscript on the comparative merits and genius of Xenophon and Plato to Mr. Thomson, to be revised and printed under his inspection at London. Dr. Chalmers' death, however, prevented the execution of this design.

On the publication of Philip III. the University of Glasgow sent him a gratuitous degree of L. L. D. At the same time Mr. Dugald Stewart, who had a right, on his admittance into the University, to nominate his Doctor, offered Mr. Thomson the same from Edinburgh; but he had the day before received that compliment from Glasgow. Had leisure and circumstances permitted, he would have gone further in his historical labours; and those who have most minutely examined, and justly appreciated, his talents, have never failed to regret, that he did not direct his efforts to some grand work in history or philosophy; metaphysical, moral, or political, wherein his powerful and original genius; the range of his knowledge; extent of his views; acuteness of distinction and promptness of combination, with his clearness and force of expression, he might have elevated himself, and reflected lustre on his country.

Three passions beyond others influence and determine human character and conduct. Ambition, (including

(including emulation and the love of glory,) avarice, and the love of pleasure. To such a mind as Thomson's, ambition would have been a very beneficial principle, by stimulating its complete and most efficacious exertion; but ambition was not his ruling passion. Avarice, in itself so much less congenial to superior genius, makes no part of his character. The love of pleasure, which often burns with the greatest violence in the strongest minds, occupied a large share in the breast of Dr. Thomson. Instead of seeking the countenance or assistance of the great, he associated with men of congenial humour. He wrote for subsistence, and rarely extended his pecuniary views beyond present support, and the prevention of injustice. He was now by profession* a literary man, and wrote upon a vast variety of subjects as opportunity offered, or occasion required. In the course of twenty years, under the constant stimulus of necessity, and with an uncommonly robust constitution, his writings have been so many and so various, that we much doubt if he himself could recollect and enumerate one half of the particulars. His first employment was, to write a commentary on a Bible published in the name of Har-

* This class of men, subsisting solely by literary efforts, is peculiar to England and France, because no other enlightened countries are sufficiently rich to afford ample encouragement to those, without the assistance of professorships or similar benefices. In Scotland and Germany, literary men have, either in universities, courts of law, the church, or the state, some other source of emolument besides the current efforts of their pens.

rison, then the most popular preacher in London, by Fielding and Walker.

At the recommendation of the present Bishop of Salisbury, who approved highly of Dr. Thomson's Philip III., he was fixed on by the late Dr. Hollingberry, to be the editor and translator of Cunningham's manuscript history in Latin of Great Britain, from the Revolution to the Accession. His execution of this undertaking, rendered a valuable work, before accessible to the learned only, a very pleasing and instructive addition to English literature. Dr. Hollingberry had married the grand-daughter of Mr. Cunningham, and had thus become proprietor of the manuscript.

About the year 1782, Dr. Thomson published, under a whimsical title, a work which shewed at once the vigour of his fancy, the strength of his criticism, his accurate and thorough comprehension of men and of systems. This was his MAN OF THE MOON, in which the lunar sovereign transports from this earth one of its most illustrious inhabitants, Mr. Charles Fox; unfolds to him human nature and pursuits, and his own character. Presenting to him a glass, he brings before him on the one hand, the talents entrusted to him by nature and Providence; and on the other, their use by his own choice. A more just and discriminating picture of that extraordinary man is no where to be found. Surveying the whole circle of philosophy, appreciating objects, and examining means, the author very clearly and forcibly shews what of present objects of research and dis-

quisition really deserve the trouble. In exhibiting the studies of professed naturalists, herb-gatherers, antiquarians, and other inquisitive and laborious triflers, he displays a force of humorous satire, not inferior to that which pourtrays the jumpers of Lilliput, or the academicians of Laputa. Like Pope, however, he perhaps too much depreciates the literary exertions of pains-taking dullness. Drudges are useful, as they clear away cobwebs, or even collect raw materials for men of greater genius and skill. His short sketch of metaphysical philosophers presents their appropriate, distinctive, and general characters, not less forcibly than was afterwards done by the profound Reid, in his introduction to his essays on the intellectual powers.

He wrote Memoirs of the War in Asia from 1780 to 1784, manifesting the formidable confederacy concerted by Hyder Ally and France, carried so extensively into execution, the military efforts and political ability which counteracted its progress, and defeated its purpose, including also a very pathetic account of the sufferings incurred by discomfited valour from the barbarity of oriental despotism.

About the year 1789, he published Mammouth; or, Human Nature displayed upon a grand Scale, in a Tour with the Tinkers into the central parts of Africa. The object of this work is to display man in his cognitive and active powers, and their springs of operation; viewing and seeking objects from their suitableness to his general nature, and not from their conformity to temporary, local, or customary modifications of that nature; exhibiting capability of

happiness and attainments, within the reach of our powers, if properly directed. The traveller seeks and finds a great share of happiness, not in the external circumstances to which vulgar association attaches felicity, but from personal sagacity, intrepidity, kind, benevolent, and ardent affections. Travelling for a considerable time with tinkers or gipsies, the hero reaches the mountains of Barbary, he is carried off by a band of robbers, and, after successive adventures, is found by a gigantic black, approaching the size of Swift's Brobdignagers, who takes him to his own country. Whereas, Swift's giants exhibit mankind *as they are*, and afford the justest and severest satire on the follies and vices of society, as it actually existed at the time he wrote; Thomson shews WHAT MEN OUGHT TO BE, AND MIGHT BE, by the exertion and wise direction of energies which they actually possess. As a satirist, Thomson, though very powerful and poignant, is not acrimonious. His wit and humour spring from promptness and brilliancy of a fancy, combining the most ludicrous images, a penetration developing through every disguise, intellectual or moral absurdity, without having for an assistant malignity of heart. Included in this view of human nature, there are political strictures of the very highest importance, especially on the comparative degree of attention due in political economy to agriculture and commerce.

For many years after Thomson came to London, he was employed as a reporter of parliamentary debates; and thoroughly comprehending the subjects,

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as well as having an excellent memory, he was an admirable reporter. This exercise greatly increased his knowledge both of the detail of passing politics and of political characters. Forcing on his consideration every subject of national discussion, it afforded to such a mind as his, multifarious materials for reflection, and abundant means of improvement. It was often observed, that this species of exertion was an excellent preparative for literary effort. Thomson was wont to say, it was an employment fit not for a sinner, yet in a state of probation, but for spirits absolutely in a state of condemnation.

Through his old class-fellow Dr. Moncrieff, Thomson became acquainted with Dr. Gilbert Stuart, which a congeniality of convivial habits, as well as similiarity of pursuits, and a resemblance in several points of character, increased into the strictest intimacy. Through Gilbert Stuart he became also intimate with Mr. John Murray, bookseller, in Fleet-Street, who was as fond of conviviality as either of them, and a curious triumvirate they were. Many a laughable anecdote is told of their parties, which not being sufficiently authenticated, we shall not here repeat. The general cast and character of the stories, as far as Stuart and Thomson were concerned, would merely shew the excentricity and extravagance of wit and genius exhilarated by wine.

On the subject of Mary Queen of Scots, Thomson most strenuously opposed the unattested assertions of Stuart, in opposition to Buchannan and Robertson. Thomson, indeed, never scrupled in Gilbert's

company to maintain the superiority of Robertson's history to Stuart's *in all respects.* Stuart, on such occasions, would appeal to his *characters* of various illustrious persons as *longer* than Robertson's; when Thomson used to tell him of a contest which he once witnessed at a fair near Perth:—A race was run between a Highlander and an Irishman. The Highlander was first at the goal; but the Irishman continued to run far beyond it, and insisted that he had won the prize as he had kept longest running. On the disputes between Mary and Elizabeth, Dr. Thomson concurs, and always concurred, with Robertson and Hume.

About the time of the coalition, Thomson joined with Stuart in contributing to a periodical work entitled the Political Herald. This work supported with great ability Mr. Fox and his party. The papers written by Thomson, and which were signed Ignotus, were prized far beyond the rest.* Finding, however, that others got both the credit and principal emolument of these labours, he discontinued his efforts.†

Dr. Thomson was very much employed in reviews, and, as a critic, displayed great powers, when the sub-

* This fact many gentlemen, and among the rest even Mr. Fox himself can testify, as well as Mr. Sheridian, who made inquiry about Ignotus at the publisher's.

† The paper was really paid by the coalition administration. This, however, Dr. Thomson not knowing till afterwards, received only a limited and inconsiderable sum from the bookseller. The editor, after the death of Stuart, was Mr. Godwin.

ject was such as to afford a field for exertion, and was often very happy in supporting strong reasoning by apposite illustrations and analogies. Speaking once of the ghost machinery in modern novels, he said, such tales reminded him of the bugbears that are sometimes used, during the rural festivities and sports of Christmas, to frighten children and inexperienced persons, and at first produce the effect, but, being afterwards explained to them to be white sheets upon long poles, excite laughter instead of fear, the next time *similar appearances are beheld*. He wrote the greater part of the political and literary appendixes in the English Review, besides innumerable critical articles. During the years of 1794, 1795, and 1796, he was proprietor of that work, and wrote almost the whole, both political and critical. Afterwards, when it was incorporated with the Analytical, he wrote the literary and political appendixes. He also wrote the life of the old Highland Sergeant Macleod, which he rendered very productive to its subject.

Dr. Thomson never espoused either side in politics with any degree of ardour, or even with much interest. He seemed, on this subject, to agree pretty much with Pope Sixtus, who said to his cardinals, "Let us amuse ourselves the best way we can; the world governs itself." It was rather by way of exhibiting the arguments made use of by philosophers in support of the French revolution, than of delivering his own opinion, that he made use of the following image, more pleasing in itself than just in its application: "It is time, that men, leaving the mere coastings of usage and precedent, should steer by the pola-

rity of reason."* As the particular nature of the French revolution, and its effects on such characters as those of Frenchmen manifested themselves, and as its special principles were developed, he perceived that the reasonings of its most active supporters were founded upon a false hypothesis. They did not accommodate their changes to the gradual variation of minds and circumstances. Instead of suiting arrangements to materials, they proposed to create materials. They presumed a plasticity and a ductility in animate nature to be found only in inanimate, and conceived that they could mould men as easily under certain forms of polity as they could mould clay into certain figures and shapes. Dr. Thomson exposes this fundamental error of modern revolutionists in a letter to his friend, Dr. Parr, dated March 1st 1792, and published with Dr. Parr's account of a dispute between him and Mr. Curtis. The object of Dr. Thomson's letter is to shew, that gradual, not rapid, changes in systems affecting the welfare of mankind, are most suitable to the human character, to the process of nature, of Providence, and of grace; and, in a work not exceeding eight pages octavo, he compresses an amount of profound observation, strong reasoning, illustrated and enforced by new, just, and striking analogy, all ministring to solid wisdom and beneficial conduct, not surpassed by any composition, however volumi-

* See Appendix to English Review for 1790, p. 76. Mr. Mackintosh quotes this analogy in the Vindiciæ Gallicæ, with many compliments to the author, with whom, as well as with his most intimate friends, he was well acquainted.

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nous and elaborate, which the French revolution has called forth. "An architect," he says, "builds a house in the most perfect symmetry, because he has to do with dead things, with wood and stones, and other inert and passive materials; but the souls of men, with which the statesmen has to do, are living spirits. These are materials which are to be treated with infinite delicacy. In transposing these, we must proceed gently and by slow degrees, lest we move more than we can wield. In the moral world a small spark at times kindles a mighty flame, which neither reason nor eloquence can subdue. When shall natural philosophers arrive at the art of moving the marble from the solid rock into arches and pillars, and other forms of architecture, by means of the projectile force of gunpowder? Scarcely is it less difficult for the moral philosopher to combine the awakened propensities and discordant views of millions in one harmonious and permanent political system. But if the momentum of those propensities and views be not calculated with due exactness, the powder of passion, instead of raising a goodly political fabric, will cover the fair face of nature with volcanic ashes. Poets have ascribed certain edifices to the divine power of music, but the concord of sweet sounds is radically and essentially different from the angry passions. Harmony is creative! Discord is destructive." Illustrating this subject from the analogy of vegetable nature, he says, "It does not seem to be the part of wise statesmen to create, so much as to improve governments; as there are various seeds profuse-

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ly scattered over the external face of nature, so there are various sources of civil and political societies; and, as the husbandman only pretends to CULTIVATE, not to *create*, the seeds of vegetables, so in like manner it is for the interest of human societies, that statesmen, instead of forming at once the very stamina or essence of new governments, by a process sudden and violent, should make the most of the old in the meantime, and assimilate them, according to the general œconomy of nature, by slow degrees, to the most approved forms that ever metaphysical policy can devise. It has been found on trial, and that too by the ablest men, that it is almost as difficult for the legislator to form, *a priori*, and without feeling his way by means of the thread of experience, a happy consitution of government, as it would be absurd for a gardener or husbandman to attempt, by a mixture of natural elements, to form an apple or an acorn. As the nature of a seed is best discovered by its development into an herb, shrub, or tree, so the principles of government are best understood when they are contemplated in their action, effect, and full expansion. In the moral as well as in the natural world, the thing that has been, is that which shall be, and there is no new thing under the sun." This letter has been very highly praised by writers and readers of all parties.

For the last two years Dr. Thomson has been occupied in writing the historical part of Dodsley's annual register; and has already brought them forward from 1790 to 1800, both inclusive. These volumes are written with the pen of a philosophical historian, and

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prove that the author is very thoroughly qualified for writing some great and important history. In the course of his literary pursuits, he has had opportunities of acquiring very ample and extensive materials for a history of British India; it is much to be wished that he would supply that great *desideratum* in political literature. It would be impossible, as above observed, to recollect and enumerate all the writings of Dr. Thomson; a man, as the Critical Review, (whose printer, old Mr. Hamilton, having quarrelled in a tavern with Thomson, a great writer in the English Review, in company with Dr. Gilbert Stewart, entertained a rancorous spite against him as long as he lived) on the occasion of reviewing a book published in the latter part of 1791, said, who sometimes wrote books in his own name, but oftener in that of other men. He composed from a mass of materials, furnished by Mr. Philip Francis to a Mr. W. Macintosh, and by Mr. Macintosh, through Mr. Demptster, to Mr. Thomson about 1781 or 1782, Travels in Europe, Asia, and Africa, published by Murray. From another mass, but sadly mixed with childish and superstitious nonsense by John Lane Macgreigor, Buchannan's Travels in the Hebrides. He was first lieutenant *under* Captain Stedman in the business of composing Stedman's History of the American war. He composed, but not without the aid of authentic documents, furnished by his private and literary friends, of whom few men in his situation have more, *Letters from Scandinavia*. He is the author of the continuation of Dr. Goldsmith's history of Greece, from Alexander the Great to the sacking of Constantinople

Constantinople by the Turks. He is the translator of the Italian Giuseppo Acerbi's travels to the North Cape. It is probable that Signior Acerbi has been induced to form an acquaintance with Dr. Thomson from perusing the political appendixes to the English and Analytical Reviews, some parts of which, but properly digested and made his own by Mr. Acerbi, we find in his observations in Sweden in the history of accademies. And, lastly, we shall mention a small composition of Dr. Thomson's, not only because it appears, though short, to be the most elaborate and finished of all his compositions, but because it leads naturally to the mention of some anecdotes not a little connected with the subject of this biographical sketch. The small treatise alluded to is, the preface or introduction to the history of the trial of Warren Hastings, Esq. published in 1796 by the late Mr. Thomas Wright, who, when he wanted to have any thing *nicely done*, as he said, was wont to apply to Dr. Thomson, with whom he was long and intimately acquainted, though not without many cautions to *read over what he should write*, and to do it in his best manner.

We should have observed, that Dr. Thomson for many years had written the weekly abridgment of politics in the Whitehall Evening Post, of which Mr. Wright was the printer. In the European Magazine, printed also by Mr. Wright, for the first three or four years Dr. Thomson was the principal, and almost the only, writer in the review part. Thus a very close connection between Dr. Thomson and Mr.

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Wright was formed, and it was continued till the death of the latter. The proprietors of the Whitehall Evening Post received themselves, and paid Dr. Thomson, many compliments on the weekly abridgement of politics. Among others who warmly expressed their approbation, was the secretary at war, the Right Honourable Mr. Windham, who had before, as well as Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Fox, and others of the coalition ministry, expressed a high opinion of the writings of Thomson, under the signature of Ignotus, in the Political Herald. But Mr. Windham did not know at that time, and probably never knew, that the abridgments were written by no other than his acquaintance Dr. Thomson, who had been introduced to him by Dr. Parr, and who, for some years, was honoured with Mr. Windham's visits and esteem. The Whitehall Evening Post was under the influence of Mr. Pitt. Dr. Thomson, however, wrote just as he thought, and many expostulations, not to say altercations, took place occasionally between Dr. Thomson and the printer and editor, his good friend, Mr. Wright. At length, in the last week in November 1798, Dr. Thomson, in his weekly abridgment of politics, severely arraigned the indifference of government to the horrors of the Clerkenwell jail, particularly the alledged cruelties of Governor Aris, and bestowed proportionable praise on the active benevolence of Sir Francis Burdett. This was past all endurance. Dr. Thomson was dismissed from a department in which, with the labour of an hour or two weekly, he earned fifty-four guineas a year, one

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guinea per week, and two guineas for annual sketches at the close of the revolving year.

Lest offence should be given to the readers of the Whitehall, by praising Sir Francis Burdett at the expence of ministry, the next ABRIDGMENT OF POLITICS, Saturday, January 5th, 1799, was prefaced by an intimation that it was by ANOTHER HAND !!!

But to return. Dr. Thomson entertained an early persuasion that Mr. Hastings, instead of prosecution, deserved splendid fortune, honour, glory, and immortality. For years had he persevered in giving vent in various publications, particularly the English Review, to an indignation which seemed, indeed, to have preyed on his mind, when he was waited on by Mr. Hastings's confidential friend and agent, Major Scott, with an offer to introduce him to Mr. Hastings, who had expressed the greatest satisfaction in seeing occasionally his cause so warmly and impressively defended by a perfect stranger. Dr. Thomson, ambitious, as it would seem, to raise himself still higher in the good opinion of Mr. Hastings, said to the Major, that it was most satisfactory to him to understand that his sentiments and endeavours were known to Mr. Hastings; that he might still say with truth, as he had done, that he had never seen or communicated with Mr. Hastings, he would persevere in the same endeavours till his trial should be decided, which he did with an ardor that seemed every day to encrease. Within a few weeks after the trial, prolonged nearly to the term of the siege of Troy, was over, Major Scott introduced Dr. Thomson to Mr. Hastings, at the Governor's

Governor's house in Park-Lane. Mr. Hastings received the Doctor with much kindness and respect, and conversed with him loug and freely; so also did Mrs. Hastings, of whom Dr. Thomson said, that she both deserved to be, and for beauty, grace, sense, and dignity of manners, seemed in reality to be to be an empress. Mr. and Mrs. Hastings, he said, always recalled to his mind Solomon and the queen of Sheba. Mr. Hastings was not long in returning a visit to Dr. Thomson in Fitzroy Square. He has since honoured him with his correspondence and other marks of favour. Mr. Hastings has often said, that nothing was more pleasing to him, during the whole course of the prosecution, than the sensibility and unsolicited services of Thomson.

Dr. Thomson is a man of a heart as expanded as his head is capacious, and has all the virtues which result from combined fortitude and benevolence. He is extremely friendly, kind, and compassionate, has gone great lengths in relieving pecuniary distress, and has, through his goodness, incurred frequent and considerable losses by loans and securities. His house has often been a refuge to his countrymen when out of regular employment. His hospitality is entirely social and convivial, without any parade. He gives his friends a hearty welcome. He is disposed to indulge very freely in the bottle: but indefatigable industry and prudence restrain this propensity, and he is very far from being habitually addicted to this gratification. Never does William Thomson display the masculine strengh of his mind with more energy than

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in conversation. His company in a private party, admitting and inciting "the feast of reason and the flow of soul," affords in originality, wisdom, and wit, a treat as high as can be enjoyed by rational nature. He is very candid and unassuming, not seeking to lead the conversation, he manifests the immense and various stores of his mind in his discussions of any subject that happens to be started. A fancy strong and splendid, abounding in imagery, either serious or comic, either grand, beautiful, or grotesque, joins with his multifarious knowledge and the depth of his philosophy in rendering him as delightful as he is instructive. From his great intimacy with Gilbert Stuart, and some other circumstances, Thomson has been supposed unfriendly to religion. That he is strictly and scrupulously orthodox it would be rashness to affirm; but no man can have juster or grander views of natural theology, can more thoroughly comprehend the Christian system, or more highly esteem it as a moral code. As a wise man, Dr. Thomson values religion as a most powerful principle of conduct, and neither his writings nor conversation have ever attacked real piety, though both often expose very forcibly and justly the absurdities of superstition and fanaticism, the folly of spiritual pride, or the wickedness of hypocrisy. One quality which pervades both his writings and conversation is good humour. He never shews spleen, acrimony, or spite. Though frequently severe, his is the severity of strength, not of malignity.

Dr. Thomson is somewhat under the middle size,

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with very broad shoulders, a capacious chest, and very strongly limbed. His bodily strength is extremely great, and, as he possesses the most intrepid courage, it has not unfrequently been exerted in the course of his perambulations through London. He has repulsed attempted robbery, seized pickpockets, overawed bullies, and severely beaten street-disturbers of the public peace. Thomson's countenance is extremely expressive of intelligence, boldness, sensibility, and benevolence. When he is earnestly engaged in conversation, his eyes have astonishing brilliancy and force.

Having said a good deal about Dr. Thomson's propensity to pleasure, it may be proper before we conclude, to observe, that his pleasures are by no means confined to sensual gratifications. He is passionately fond of music, has a lively relish for poetry, if exquisite, and for books of travels, history, natural and civil, and on other subjects. In one of his excursions through the Highlands of Perthshire with Mr. Fowler of the Treasury, above-mentioned, the travellers stopt at the house of a miller in Glen Cooaigh, near Strath-Brandt. When they went in, they heard the most affecting notes in the inner part of the house, though, for want of windows in that part, nobody was to be seen. It was a young widow whose husband had been dead but a fortnight, singing her child to sleep. A servant girl, on the entrance of the strangers, would have hastened to call her mistress, but both Mr. Thomson and Mr. Fowler agreed not by any means to interrupt her song. It was an original lullaby,

laby, consisting of a few plaintive words, but a greater variety of plaintive notes; the whole expressive of love for her departed husband, tenderness to her babe, and anxiety about the future destiny or fate of both. When the child fell asleep and the song was over, the young widow appeared, and, by her great beauty and extreme modesty, heightened the impressions before made in her favour in the breasts of Mr. Fowler and Mr. Thomson. She was so modest and diffident, that she could not be persuaded to give any other specimen of her vocal, musical, and almost poetical powers; nor, indeed, in such circumstances of sorrow, did the travellers urge it. Dr. Thomson, on their return to Duplin, set the notes of the Highland shepherdess to music, with some improvements. It is one of the most plaintive, tender, and affecting melodies that ever was composed.

As we have thus given some account of what Dr. Thomson has done, so it may be expected that we should mention what he intends to do. We have seen a vast collection of notes and memorandums he has made for a work, to be entitled, *History of Metaphysics, with an Estimateof the Results of Metaphysical Enquiries: To which is subjoined a brief Treatise on the Process of the Mind in the Act of Reminiscence*; but whether his leisure will ever enable him to finish, or his fortune to publish, such a work, is a question.

Dr. Thomson is married to a lady, who still retains a considerable share of beauty, which has been very great. Mrs. Thomson possesses very respectable literary talents, as she has shown in various no-

vels, but especially the Labyrinths of Life, a very interesting story, with nice delineation, and strong exhibition of passion and character. His children are two sons and two daughters, on whom he has been careful to bestow all the advantages of education, particularly those arising from early impressions of religion and virtue, and who are all of them either settled, or in a way of being genteelly settled in life.

☞ *The following, which forms a link to the narrative, was, through accident, omitted in its proper place, page* 432, *line* 1.

" It was chiefly by what were called college-exercises that " Thomson was first distinguished. Mr. Morton, Professor of " Humanity, called on the students to give an account of authors, " *viva voce*, by way of analysis, with their observations. Here " Thomson made a capital figure. Dr. Watson, in the class for " logic, rhetoric, and universal grammar, prescribed subjects for " criticism, and others for original composition. Here also " Thomson excelled. Professor Watson said, that he shewed a " genius truly metaphysical."

R. B.

SIR WILLIAM OUSELEY.

PROFICIENCY in the literature of the East is still so rare in England, is attained with such difficulty, and bears a relation so direct and strong to the utilities of our trade and imperial policy, that whoever is eminently distinguished by this merit, cannot but deserve to be respectfully pointed out to the esteem and imitation of his fellow-countrymen. We have, therefore, peculiar satisfaction in offering the tribute of the following short memoir to the worth and erudition of Sir William Ouseley.

This gentleman has his descent from a family of ancient distinction in Shropshire and Northamptonshire. He

He was born in the year 1771. His earlier education was under several domestic tutors: the last of these, a gentleman of the University of Glasgow, possessing uncommon skill in the literature of Greece and Rome, and qualified to kindle in his pupil's mind, a passion for the learning in which he himself excelled, was the director of his studies, for several years.

In the year 1787, Mr. Ouseley made an excursion, in finishing of his education, to visit Paris, and perfect himself in the knowledge and familiar use of the French language. After a residence of some months in that capital, he returned, through Normandy, to England.

In the year following, he entered the army, by purchasing a cornetcy in the 8th regiment of dragoons. He joined his regiment while it was quartered in Ireland; and, soon after, purchased a lieutenancy in the same corps.

The military profession, to a man of a truly ingenuous mind improved by early culture, affords advantages the most eligible for that study, observation, and practice in the varieties of social intercourse, which are to endow the intellect with its truest wealth, are to bestow the last maturity upon judgment, and the highest polish of sentiment.

Mr. Ouseley having entered the army with a fit turn of mind and character, naturally sought in literature a resource for amusement in the leisure of country-quarters. The study of antiquities, which presents so many images of grandeur and tenderness to interest the imagination and the heart, was that for which he first conceived a passionate curiosity. It led him insensibly

sensibly into the kindred study of the ancient languages of the East; the Hebrew, Arabic, and Persian.

What, indeed, can be more natural, than to proceed, by such a gradation, from enquiries concerning the monuments of the history of the ancients, and the remains of their arts, to the study of their languages? The power to trace the relations of etymology, is one of the master-keys which open to the knowledge of antiquity. The history of the origin, the descents, the filiations, and the cognations of words, if philosophically written, might involve the whole history of human arts and institutions. We cannot examine the ancient and modern languages of Europe, without tracing them all to the three grand sources of the Celtic, the Gothic, and the Sclavonic; and among these, again, we easily discern so many things to be in common, that they must be considered as radically one and the same: while, in the Persian, the Hebrew, and the Arabic, we can discover an agreement, in primary words, with the Celtic, Gothic, and Sclavonic, that may seem almost to conduct us up to the knowledge of one original, universal language, on which all others are variously engrafted, without the destruction of the stem. Erudition is, amid such investigations, exalted into philosophy: and, the study of languages expands and elevates the mind by filling it with the noblest conceptions, and by teaching it to embrace, as it were at once, the history of all ages and of all nations.

In the retirement in which Mr. Ouseley began the study of the Eastern tongues, he had no helps in this study, but those of books. But the famous Clenard

began his acquisition of a skill in the Arabic language, by reading, in an Arabic version of the psalter, those proper names which he might suppose to be the same in the Arabic as in the Hebrew, and thus labouring to distinguish the forms and sounds of the different characters in which the names were in the unknown language expressed. Sir William Jones was much more indebted to his own ardent industry and genius, than to any aid of instructors, for the success with which he conquered all the difficulties of the most abstruse oriental learning. Mr. Ouseley was not less boldly industrious, and therefore not less fortunate in the same studies, than either of the authors of these two illustrious examples.

Early in the spring of the year 1794, the regiment to which he belonged was ordered on foreign service. At Ostend, under the immediate command of General Richard Whyte, they joined the Austrian army. The French, however, with whom they were soon engaged in different skirmishes, prevented their junction with the troops under the Duke of York. On the 8th of May, a general action was fought between the allied army and the French, in which the 8th regiment of dragoons had a conspicuous part. At a village between Wervick and Commines, a squadron of the British cavalry was nearly cut in pieces; and among the losses of the 8th regiment, so many of the superior officers fell, that Mr. Ouseley remained first lieutenant, after the engagement of the day was over. By General Whyte, and by Colonel Hart who had the command of the regiment, he was warmly recommended to the Commander-in-

Chief

Chief for appointment to a troop of which the command was vacant. But his wishes, and these good offices of his friends, were disappointed.

At the close of the campaign, therefore, he obtained leave to sell his commission; and left the service. He spent some of the winter months at the University of Leyden; where he took pleasure in the inspection of the valuable oriental manuscripts preserved in its library; and renewed his studies in Hebrew, under a learned Jew of the synagogue of Dort.

On his return to London, he began to prepare for the press, a curious work, which he made public, under the title of Persian Miscellanies, in the year 1795.

PERSIA, a country later in the origin of its population, it may be, than Hindostan, Assyria, and Egypt, was, however, for as much as can be discovered from the monuments of ancient history, occupied by human inhabitants sooner than almost any other region of the surface of the globe. At an early period in the history of Persia, as a seat of dominion, it appears to have had letters, and an order of priests, the guardians of the knowledge and literature of the country. Yet, from the Jews, who, of the nations from whom the west has been illuminated, had the first intercourse with the Persians, we have little or no information concerning their literature. The Greeks have commemorated the philosophy and theology of Zerdusht, the existence and some of the actions and practices of the magi, with a few of the revolutions of civil and military power, but are not known to have transported any Persian

manuscripts into Europe, and have not preserved translations of any Persian books. The ruins of Persepolis shew the ancient written characters of the Persians to have been of a peculiarity to which we can scarcely yet find a key, and in which there are now few or no other remains. Chronicles were regularly kept, even before the Grecian conquest, of the transactions of the Persian court and government. But, even till the Roman and Parthian conquests destroyed the Greek empire in Asia, the language and learning of the Persians had made small progress toward that exact state in which they exist at the present day. It is, since the era of the Parthian conquests; under the succession of those monarchs who were contemporary with the emperors of Rome and of the lower Greek empire; under the Mahometan princes who have reigned there, since the Persians became proselytes to the law of Mahomet; amidst the progress of the arts of luxury, the extension of trade, and the fluctuations of dominion; that the Persian language has, gradually, become one of the most elegant, the most copious, and the most universally prevalent of those in the East; while all the spoils of the history, science, and literature of the East have been, from time to time, deposited in its books. By the communications of trade from the Persian gulph; by the colonizations of those who are, in India, called the Parsees, the worshippers of fire; as well as by events arising from the Mogul conquests; the Persian has become the favourite language of trade, politics, and elegant literature,

terature, even from the confines of Arabia and Syria to the western limits of the Chinese empire. The study of it furnishes a passport, by which the traveller may obtain access to all that is most respectable, in the higher orders of society in the East: and it unlocks the stores of almost all modern oriental learning and history. In France, the Persian language was studied, with some success, even in the latter part of the seventeenth century, by the disciples of that seminary, in which Louis XIV. wished to form persons who should serve as interpreters in his embassies to Turkey and other parts of the East. It was studied also at Rome, for the sake of the propagation of the gospel; by the Portuguese, in consequence of their intercourse with India; and by the Dutch, while they pursued the same career of trade and conquest, and strove to occupy exclusively the dominion and navigation of the Persian gulph. By the British, it was neglected almost till the era when the East-India Company became great territorial lords in Hindostan. An acquaintance with it has been, since that time, indispensibly necessary in at least a certain proportion of the civil and military servants of the Company. To Dow, Gladwin, Scott, Sir William Jones, and a multitude of other eminent oriental scholars, we owe translations of Persian books, and didactic works introductory to the knowledge of the Persian language, which encourage us to expect, that the whole treasures of Persian literature may be, at length, transfused into English; and that, on the other hand, to the advan-

tage alike of our learning and our trade, Englishmen may be soon, at least, as generally masters of the language of Persia, as they are of the Greek, the Italian, or the German.

Toward this use did Mr. Ouseley contribute his Persian Miscellanies. Of that work, it was the immediate object to facilitate to beginners the reading of manuscripts in this language. The *nishki*, the *talik*, and the *shekesteh*, are three sorts of hand-writing in use among the Persians. The *nishki* is common to the Persians with the Arabians among whom it had its origin. The *talik* is the classical hand-writing of the Persians, which they prefer in all those cases in which we should be disposed to employ the most splendid and elegant printing. The *shekesteh* is the running hand of business, in which the rules and formalities of the correct *nishki* are carelessly violated, and the modes of the *talik* are, likewise, freely intermingled. Contractions and combinations of letters, scarce guided by any certain rule, abound in all these species of writing, to a degree that makes it long extremely difficult for the student to read them at sight. In the first chapters of the Persian Miscellanies, Mr. Ouseley explains those varieties in the location and abbreviation of the letters in words, which are the most likely to defy the skill of a reader of small experience. This humble part of grammatical literature he has contrived to adorn with flowers of biographical anecdote, and of criticism on the beauties of works of taste in the Persian language. As he proceeds

ceeds through the series of his chapters, he rises, still more and more from the mere elucidation of the difficulties and contractions in the graphical art, to elegant literary anecdote, and to the exposition of some of the peculiar beauties of the Persian poets. In the whole, it would be difficult to imagine the existence of a book better adapted to serve as an assistant to the student struggling and hesitating, amid the pain of his first attempts, to decypher the obscurity of Persian manuscripts; or fitter to allure one onward to explore the whole treasures of Persian learning, by filling the whole fancy with the most captivating anticipation of its charms. To these merits this publicationa dds also, that of being written with uncommon elegance of English style, with justness of reason and of taste, with the happiest propriety of sentiment. It was received with due favour by the Public, who deemed it an honour to the name of a British soldier, that there should have been in the army, a gentleman who, before he was full five and twenty years of age, could distinguish himself by professional skill and gallantry, to merit, on the most critical occasions, the high approbation of his commanding officers, by a skill so nice and critical in the most useful of the languages of the East, and by such power of manly, unaffected eloquence in writing in his native English tongue.

Soon after this period, Mr. Ouseley, obtaining the rank of Major in the Ayrshire regiment of fencible dragoons, joined that corps at the city of Carlisle. At Carlisle, in the beginning of the year 1796, he

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married a young lady, of great beauty and accomplishments, the daughter of Colonel John Irving, and niece to General Paulus Emilius Irving.

In the continued study of oriental literature, Major Ouseley became the purchaser of several large collections of eastern manuscripts. He wished to render his possession of these treasures, as immediately and as highly as possible, of use to the public. In the year 1797, therefore, he published, from those manuscripts chiefly, the first number of *Oriental Collections, &c.* a work which has been since, at intervals, continued in nine succeeding numbers. These collections, containing, beside extracts and translations from manuscripts in the editor's own possession, likewise dissertations by himself and others, on various obscure and interesting topics in the learning and history of the East, accounts of unpublished works in the oriental languages which were not in Major Ouseley's own hands, illustrations of difficulties in the ancient history of some of the nations of the west by the lights of eastern learning, with other articles equally adapted to make Persian, Arabian, and Sanscrit literature popular in Europe, have been received with great and deserved favour by the public in both Britain and India, and have procured to their editor very high estimation among the erudite scholars of the present age.

His regiment being, after some time, reduced; he fixed his residence in London; and with unremitting perseverance continued his accustomed studies. In 1799, he gave to the world another fruit of these,

under the title of an "Epitome of the Ancient History of Persia:" a work of great utility, though in a form peculiarly modest and unostentatious.

His writings were read and admired by men of learning in various countries, who were not backward in public testimonies of their just esteem for the author. He was hence, without solicitation, adopted as an associate by the members of various academies, and favoured with honorary graduation in different universities. Of these there was none in itself more honourable, none we believe more acceptable to Mr. Ouseley, than a diploma for the degree of doctor of laws, presented to him from the University of Dublin. The rules under which the honours of graduation are there usually conferred, preserve degrees, with remarkable vigilance and jealousy, from being prostitused to the unworthy. And, so rarely does the University overstep those rules, to bestow its distinctions on extraneous literary merit, that, as was, on this occasion, justly observed, Dr. Samuel Johnson was the last person who had received from that body the same testimony of esteem with which they now honoured Mr. Ouseley.

He went, in consequence of this, on a visit to Dublin, to offer his thanks personally to the members of the University. During his stay there, he waited on the Marquis of Cornwallis, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in his court at Dublin Castle; and had the honour to present to his Lordship a volume of the Oriental Collections. The Marquis of Cornwallis, from the circumstances of his own services in India,

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knew the importance of encouraging zeal so ardent as that of Mr. Ouseley, in the culture of oriental literature. He, therefore, bestowed, on him in the honour of knighthood, a distinction that might well be grateful equally to the scholar and the soldier.

In the year 1800, Sir William Ouseley had the honour to present to his Majesty at St. James's, a copy of a new fruit of his learned labours, a translation of the "*Oriental Geography of* EBN HAUKAL." This work appears to have been written in the beginning of the tenth century of the Christian æra. Excluding those parts of Africa which were inhabited by negroes, strangers to the Mahometan faith, and that part of Europe which was possessed by the Christians; it sketches the geography of the rest of the world, from Gibraltar eastward to India, comprehending all the countries in which Mahometism was then professed. The author, of whose personal history there is now little known, appears to have been, like Herodotus, a great traveller. He has visited many of the countries which he describes. Their political divisions in the tenth century, their natural boundaries, the states of freedom and dominion in which their inhabitants were respectively placed, many of the traditionary fables in the antiquities of their history, and many particulars respecting the state of their arts, manners, and customs, are in this work interestingly displayed. Its translation into English is, to us, like the effusion of a sudden light across a part of a cavern that had been entirely hid in darkness, or like to the recovering of the ruins of another Pom-

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peii or Herculaneum from under the lavas by which it was overwhelmed. It is true, that Ebn Haukal is often incorrect in his estimation of distances, and that the historical facts which he mentions do not always appear with the evidence of sufficient credibility. But, even in these imperfections, his work has a value, as affording an instance of what was the precise state of knowledge and liberal enquiry among the learned Mahometans of the age in which he lived.

Sir William Ouseley's next publication furnished a specimen of the manner in which the moralists of the east often contrive to use those fictions in which the vulgar and ignorant delight, as vehicles of ethical and political instruction. It was a translation of a Persian work, named *Bakhtyar Nameh*, or, "Tales of Bakhtyar and the Ten Viziers." We have perused it with great pleasure; and are satisfied that it must long be a favorite with English readers. It is contained in a single octavo volume.

Beside those three species of hand-writing which have been mentioned as being in use in Persian literature, there is another more ancient, which, since the Mahometan conquest of Persia, has gone into disuse, and is now no longer certainly understood. It is denominated the *pehlavi*, and appears still in some ancient inscriptions. In 1801, Sir William Ouseley, in a paper of learned and ingenious "Observations on some Gems and Medals bearing inscriptions in the Pahlavi or ancient Persick characters," produced a specimen of his diligence to introduce new light

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even into the deepest obscurities of Persian literature, and an incontestible proof that there was in this province nothing too dark or arduous for the perspicacity of his understanding, and the energies of his genius.

By the university of Rostock, Sir William Ouseley has been created a doctor in philosophy. He has been elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, a member of the Asiatick Society at Calcutta, a member also of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Gottingen, and of several literary societies. The authors of the Journals of Criticism, which are published in London, and in France, and Germany, have reviewed his learned works with the testimony of the most liberal applause. Dr. Vincent, the learned Dean of Westminster, Mr. Eyles Irwin, the author of the Pursuits of Literature, and other eminent men of letters, have in their writings equally expressed warm approbation of the zeal and the success of his oriental studies.

We regret, that, to this account of the merits and fame of a scholar whose proficiency in oriental learning is more remarkable even than that of Sir William Jones, because it has been attained without the same advantages of academical leisure and assistance, we cannot add the mention of encouragement conferred by his sovereign or by the East India Company, in official employment, or in pecuniary rewards.

But although, for the diplomatic, for the military, for the commercial, and for the judicial service of this country, in the east, it be of the highest importance

tance that we should have always among us a great number of men of worth and talents, expert in every branch of oriental learning, and capable of speaking and writing in the eastern languages with facility and elegance; though France have derived extraordinary advantages from the institution of Louis XIV. for educating at Paris men who should be qualified to serve as interpreters to his oriental embassies; though incalculable mischiefs have arisen to the interests of Britain from the necessity in which we have generally been, whether in Turkey, India, or China, of trusting to the interpretation of strangers in the ultimate transaction of business; though a school for the eastern languages might be, for an expence comparatively small, established at the India-house; though one should imagine, that, for the education of those who are destined for the public service of their country, a new institution for the Persian, the Sanscrit, and the Chinese languages, should be added to every university in these kingdoms; though in France, Bonaparte be now winning every suffrage by his zealous and magnificent patronage of this and every other part of learning and science; yet, in Britain and Ireland, oh shame! there is nothing publicly done to promote the knowledge of a literature, intimately connected with the government of more than twenty millions of our subjects,—nothing that is not absolutely extorted from our supremely barbarous aversion and indifference, by the invincible necessity of nature and of business. Sir William Jones, had he not found other recommendations than his abilities as a lawyer and his skill in oriental literature, might possibly

sibly have seen the chief-justiceship at Calcutta denied to him, that it might be bestowed on any of the most illiterate of his brethren at the English bar: and it were delusion in us to hope, that those who possess the patronage in India affairs, should, in the instance of Sir William Ouseley, exercise in favour of their country, a discernment and a noble disinterested preference of merit, which they have not hitherto shewn.

But, this gentleman has now a reputation in these studies to sustain, the care of which no discouragement should tempt him to abandon. Having done so much at so early an age; he has thus justified expectations in the learned world, which are not easily to be satisfied; and has virtually contracted obligations towards it, which it will require the most ardent labour of his whole future life gloriously to discharge. The task is arduous: but high and sure is the prize, of conscious utility, and of indestructible reputation: Enough—enough to an exalted and generous mind; though every meaner and more sordid reward should be entirely withheld!

If we be not misinformed, he is now preparing to pursue, with new zeal, the illustrious career on which he has entered. For some years he has been employed on a great work on Asiatic geography. For the sake of enquiries, which he thinks necessary to bring that work to due perfection, he intends shortly to make a journey to Persia, and to visit the other countries of the east. How much might not the adventures and researches of such a traveller contribute to enlarge and correct our present knowledge of the state of those regions! R. H.

SIR FRANCIS BURDETT.

THIS zealous advocate of the cause of liberty and humanity is descended from an ancient family, whose origin may be traced, in an uninterrupted succession, to the time of William the Conqueror. Hugh Burdett came into England with William in the year 1066, and his son, Sir William Burdett, distinguished himself in the Holy Wars.

In the year 1618 Sir Francis Burdett, knight, was created a Baronet. This gentleman was celebrated for his hospitality and beneficence: he built and endowed, at his own private cost, the church of Foremark in Derbyshire, which was consecrated in the year 1662, and called St. Saviour's.

Sir Robert Burdett, grandfather to the present Baronet, succeeded to the title and estate in the year 1739; he was many years member of parliament for Tamworth; he married the daughter of Sir Charles Sedley of Nuthall, in the county of Nottingham, by whom he had several children; among these was Francis, who in the year 1767 married Eleanor Jones, daughter and coheiress of William Jones, Esq. of Ramsbury, in Wiltshire, but died before his father, Sir Robert. His surviving sons were Robert, Francis, and Jones; the former was unfortunately drowned in descending one of the cataracts on the Rhine, and Francis, the subject of this memoir, succeeded to the title and estate at the death of his grandfather, Sir Robert.

Sir Francis was educated at Westminster school; and after having spent some time at the university, he made a tour of the continent about the year 1790. He was at Paris at an early period of the late revolution, and remained there a considerable time, but regarded the important and rapidly changing events of that epoch, as they would strike the eye of an uninterested spectator, rather than with the attention of a politician. It is true he sometimes attended the National Assembly, and the clubs that were distinguished at Paris, but it is equally certain that he felt little or no interest in the topics of discussion that agitated the breasts of the contending parties. We are not able to ascertain the exact period of his return from the continent, but in the year 1796, he was, through the interest of the Duke of Newcastle, returned a member of parliament for Boroughbridge, in Yorkshire. From that period to the present, he has been indefatigable in the performance of all those duties which attach to a member of the British Legislature. He has not been contented with merely attending in his place on all important occasions: he has himself, and sometimes almost alone, agitated questions involving the dearest interests of his fellow-citizens.

One of the first acts of Sir Francis's political life was an open, avowed, and unreserved declaration of his sentiments, as a friend to a reform in the Commons House of Parliament. At one of the most respectable and numerous meetings ever held in London, Sir Francis very readily took the chair, and

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in an animated speech declared his opinion on this subject, and his resolution to pursue it by every legal means.

We cannot attempt to follow this gentleman in all his parliamentary career, short as it has been, because, in a work of this kind, sufficient latitude cannot be allowed to enter into the detail: we must be contented to draw a sort of outline, by collecting some of the more prominent features which have distinguished his conduct.

Sir Francis had not long been seated in St. Stephen's Chapel before he avowed himself, in the most unequivocal manner, a friend of the rights of the people. He enlisted under the banners of freedom, and declared an open hostility to every act inimical to the liberties of Britons. Upon almost every question relative to the late war, he joined issue with the ministers, exposed the weakness of their measures, the futility of their attempts to subjugate France, and the certain disgrace which must inevitably attend the prosecution of their schemes. The speech which he delivered on the third of January, 1798, in the House of Commons, on the assessed taxes, was replete with argument and sound reasoning: it shewed that, notwithstanding the youth of the orator, it was the result of deep thought, and sound political principles. In answer to the minister, who called upon the country to make any and every sacrifice for the purpose of continuing the war, anticipating certain success if the house would be liberal in its supplies, Sir Francis said, in a spirited tone:

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"We seem to imagine that we have only to assemble within these walls to devise ways and means for extracting large sums of money from the country; then we are told our embarrassments will be relieved, and our enemies will be dismayed.

"But, Sir, we must first cleanse away those foul corruptions which the present minister has carried beyond any former example; which unnerves every heart and every arm, and deprives us of that vigour and courage, once characteristic of this now degraded nation.

"Sir, money is not the sinew of war. If money were as all-powerful as most persons, in spite of experience, continue to believe; I say in spite of experience, for the whole tenor of history serves to prove the contrary, the extravagance of our own minister must have entitled him to every advantage; and the people of France would long since have been exterminated." Sir Francis then enumerated the methods by which the money raised from the people was squandered away; and concluded with saying: "It is not on account of the heavy pressure which this mode of raising supplies must occasion: it is not on account of the unjust and tyrannical principle of the bill now before you: it is not on account of the waste and extravagance of government, enormous as it is, that I now raise my voice against granting the supplies demanded by the minister: it is because *I never will*, at any time, or under any circumstances, become an accomplice in the guilt of supporting a system, which, if it can be supported, and is to be persisted in, must eventually destroy the freedom of the country."

In the following June, Sir Francis had an opportunity afforded him of standing forward the avowed friend of the liberty of the press. A bill was brought into the house for regulating the publication of newspapers, &c. which was opposed by the leading members of opposition as a dangerous innovation. Sir Francis regarded it as only part of a plan which had been going on for many years, and which would effectually

fectually undermine all that was valuable in our excellent constitution as it was settled at the Revolution:

"A good and free government," he said, "had nothing to apprehend, and every thing to hope from the liberty of the press. But despotism courted shade and obscurity; it dreaded the scrutinizing eye of liberty; and if an arbitrary-disposed prince, supported by an unprincipled minister, and backed by a corrupt parliament, were to cast about for means to secure such a triple tyranny, no means better could be devised than the bill on the table.

"The present ministers endeavoured to frighten us into measures, holding out the dread of a revolution, whilst themselves were the greatest, and the only revolutionists from whom we had any thing to fear; from whom we had suffered much, and had still more to expect. They had already completed a great revolution, not in favour of, but against liberty. He then reminded the house of the unconstitutional measures daily introduced, one of which he could not forbear mentioning; the infamous practice, by which the whole law of imprisonment was changed, of sending men to those Bastiles which disgraced the country; those private prisons, where, under pretence of regulations, punishments were inflicted upon men as illegal as they were cruel. And what were those regulations so called? To keep men in dismal, heart-sickening solitude, to feed them on bread and water, and that scanty too; to sentence them to hard labour, exacted by stripes, at the will, perhaps, of a merciless jailor. If this were not tyranny, it was impossible to define the term. It was natural for such a government to complain of the press; it was part of that revolution which had been brought about, and which the present bill would secure; the seeds of which had long been sown, and the effects had been foreseen by the wise Lord Chatham, who had warned the country of the danger and magnitude of the evil. But ministerial corruption blinded the nation then as it did now; and there was reason to fear it would end, as that great statesman foretold, in the subversion of our old, free constitution, and the establishment of a German government."

From this period we may date the commencement of Sir Francis Burdett's steady opposition to that system of confinement which seems to have been unknown in our land till within these few years.

Sir Francis was not contented with reports that might be exaggerated; he was not satisfied with assertions made by interested persons, he himself visited and made himself acquainted with all the internal economy of those prisons. He saw the sufferings of many, and compassionated their distresses: unwilling, however, to trust to the evidence of his own senses alone, he invited several respectable gentlemen, both in and out of parliament, to visit with him the prison in Cold Bath Fields; and having so done, and collected what he considered to be the most irrefragable evidence, that the treatment of prisoners in that place was accompanied with a severity, which neither humanity nor policy could justify, he called the attention of parliament to the subject again and again.

In the debate on renewing the suspension of that great bulwark of British liberty, the Habeas Corpus Act, after having animadverted upon it as unnecessary in the existing state of public affairs; as a measure to which no wise administration would resort, but upon the most urgent occasions; as a measure which more than every other tended to render insecure all that was valuable to a nation, who had been accustomed to boast of their liberties, and the speedy administration of justice; he called the attention

tention of the house to a case of great hardship, which was too well authenticated to admit even of a doubt. He assured the house, that

"A number of persons were brought up to town from Manchester loaded with irons, and thrown into the house of correction, in rooms unprepared for their reception; and on the next day, when exhausted with fatigue, with hands and legs swollen, and severely galled with the weight and friction of the fetters, they were sent before the Privy-Council, to be examined on charges of which they were ignorant, and, as it has since appeared, completely innocent. He asked whether this was a fit and proper treatment for persons apprehended on suspicion only, whose accusers were probably men of doubtful or infamous character; and whether in that situation they were likely to be possessed of that calm and steady recollection of mind necessary to stand before so august a body as the Privy-Council? Yet, while the Habeas Corpus Act was suspended, there was no redress for men, innocent men, however ill they were treated."

Mr. Aris's own account of this fact, as given in evidence before a committee of the House of Commons, March 18, 1799, proves that Sir Francis's statement was accurate, for the governor of that prison says:

"That when these men arrived at the prison they were all heavily double ironed, and *handcuffed together*; that they were all thrown into one room during the first night, without a bed to lie on, or fire to warm them, though the weather was severe, having nothing on which they might repose their weary limbs, but about two ton of oakum."

From the same evidence, which cannot be suspected of being exaggerated in the prisoners' behalf, Mr. Aris declares, that from March till June he treated those persons, who were only arrested on *suspicion*, in

in the same manner as he treated those who were actually *convicted* of felony. His answer to the question "whether for three days in a week they did "not live entirely upon one pound of bread per day "and water only for drink? was given in the following words; "Yes; the Manchester people lived "*the same as people under conviction*, namely, meat "and broth four days in the week, and bread and "water the other three."

From this single fact it is demonstrated, that the prison required to be examined; and Sir Francis, by his exertions on this occasion, merited the thanks of his country.

In December he moved for a list of the names of the persons who had been taken up under the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. This motion was opposed by Mr. Pitt, and negatived. Shortly afterwards, while Sir Francis was in the country, the business of the Cold-Bath Fields Prison was taken up in a slight manner by some of the friends of administration, and a committee appointed to enquire into the state of the prison. This committee was composed of persons known to be friendly in a high degree to the existing administration; yet from their report it is evident, that the prison stood in need of a complete reformation; of the Governor they said (p. 47):

"We believe Mr. Aris to be very deficient in point of obedience to those rules which enjoin him to execute the duties of his office in person, to see every prisoner, and to examine every cell, once at least in each day." In speaking of a certain class of prisoners (p. 36.) they say: "We apprehend that prisoners in this situation have but too well known how to suit their proposals to the

the wants of the governor, and that in fact he has been sometimes tempted beyond what he has had fortitude to resist."

In connection with this part of the report, we observe, that in Mr. Aris's examination (p. 36 of the Appendix) he acknowledges having borrowed money of several prisoners at different times.

In p. 41 and 42 the committee observe, that "the space contained in each of the cells of this prison is certainly not greater than is necessary for the healthful respiration of the *one* person intended to be lodged in it; to lodge *two* persons in this space is to counteract the principle and subvert the intentions of the law." Nevertheless, "it must have happened in the present year that one hundred and forty persons have been so confined, as to sleep and live *two* in a space provided and adapted to *one* person; and that, on an average, thirty persons have always so slept and lived: as there are no more than two hundred and forty eight bedsteads in the prison, the half of these numbers have certainly slept without separate bedsteads, and most of them probably without separate bedding."

In p. 43 the committee say: "Of six apprentices, we found five who had no other sustenance than bread and water, whilst one having been further convicted before the court on an aggravated charge of assaulting and wounding a fellow servant, received the full meat allowance."

The general complaints which followed the committee through the whole prison, were insufficiency of food, and the want of warmth during the daytime in the winter; and they observe (p. 21.) "And "we think these complaints were in some cases "made on very reasonable grounds."

By the 35th rule, it appears that prisoners, not sentenced to hard labour, are to be allowed to work, and to receive at the expiration of their imprisonment one half of the profits of their labour. Mr. Aris in his

his examination before the committee of the House of Commons, (p. 12.) avows, that it had not been usual to let prisoners of this description know the intention of the legislature on this point, and that he always used his own discretion with respect to employing prisoners.

"The committee declare it as their opinion, that the prison allowance is insufficient for the support of life." p. 45. "That in the course of our examination into the management of this prison, it was impossible not to observe, and highly to blame, the irregular facility with which the punishment of refractory behaviour has been inflicted. On occasions of important outrages, indeed, we remark some instances of reference to the authority of magistrates; but we find no traces of any register of punishment; nor does it appear that any regard has at any time been paid to those limits, in point of time and circumstances, which the law has specifically directed."

Upon the whole the committee declare, that "in the present state of this prison, we do not hesitate to pronounce it an improper place of confinement for these several descriptions of unconvicted persons; nor indeed, until its discipline, regulations, and arrangement, shall have undergone considerable alterations, can we consider it as much less improper for prisoners convicted for misdemeanors on indictments at common law.

"So necessarily does this conclusion appear to us to follow a view and enquiry into the state and management of this prison, that we are led to apprehend that those magistrates who have acted contrary to it, may have neglected to inspect, or otherwise inform themselves of the real situation in which prisoners are placed by their commitments." P. 43.

Such was the state of the prison according to the most favorable accounts; yet Sir Francis Burdett was condemned by persons both in and out of parliament, for the steps he had taken to bring these things before the public. By a letter from the Duke of Portland to all the jailors in the kingdom he was stigmatized

tized as unfit to perform the common offices of humanity, as unworthy of being entrusted with a knowledge of the wrongs that were inflicted on his fellow men. It was given in charge to the keeper of every prison in the land, that on no pretence whatever should Sir Francis Burdett be admitted within the limits of their jurisdiction.

Of this conduct Sir Francis, in his place in the House of Commons, speaks with proper and becoming indignation:

"Members of this House," said he, "I believe, Sir, have not often been used to treat each other as I have been treated; but if I am mistaken, and if the conduct held towards me is a handsome one, the minister, and those who have assisted him in it, are welcome to the whole merit of it. But, Sir, why all this anxiety to take out of my hands, and to stifle any real enquiry into the practices of this prison, of so novel an establishment in the land? How happens it, that as soon as I gave notice of a motion upon the subject, I am instantly held up to the world as an object of odium, stigmatized by one secretary of state, my conduct condemned unheard, and without any examination, even of those members of this house who accompanied me in my visit to the prison, and, by what legal authority I am still to learn, excluded from visiting any prison in England? How comes is to pass, that three honourable members, who never before appear to have thought of an enquiry, become all at once so very solicitous and hasty to move for a committee of enquiry? Themselves, perhaps, can explain it. But I can explain the motive of the minister and secretary of state for wishing to prevent any real enquiry. Because a fouler premeditated system of iniquity never existed in any nation upon earth; and such, I trust, with the assistance of this house, I shall make it appear, to the confusion even of those faces which are not accustomed to blush. The base and impotent attempt to criminate me, I shall for the present pass over, contenting myself with barely stating, that I visited the prison

prison three times, and should have visited it a fourth time, in the usual and customary way in which any other man might have visited it, by a written order from one of the magistrates; that I never visited it alone; and that several gentlemen, some of them members of this house, can inform the house what my conduct was upon this occasion. Sir, I declare upon my honour, as I have declared before, that I never saw the face of any man in that prison, except Col. Despard, until the day I first visited the prison. At the same time I say this only to caution gentlemen not to give too rash a credit to ministerial misrepresentations, and not from any anxiety upon the score of being supposed to be acquainted with these men; for I believe there are some among these men as honest and as virtuous as any of those I am now addressing. Sir, I have witnessed their courage and their constancy under sufferings almost beyond human endurance—I have seen them expose themselves to additional sufferings and additional insults, by performing those duties, which in their situation they might well have stood excused from, but which justice and humanity, in their opinion, required."

By the unremitted exertions of this young Senator, the situation of the prisoners confined in the Cold-Bath-Fields Prison has been rendered more tolerable: the remissness of the magistrates in their duty was so effectually exposed, that Mr. Pitt, in a debate in the house, declared, that no man would think of justifying the conduct of the magistrates who had shewn such a want of feeling and circumspection, so essential to form the genuine character of a wise, upright, and humane magistracy. He added, that though he saw no necessity for the motion for an address; yet it being acknowledged on all hands, that there existed ground of investigation on the part of government, it being quite clear from the documents on the table, that the magistrates were to blame, if the motion for an

an address should be pressed, he would not oppose it.

By the exertions of Sir Francis Burdett, the Grand and Traverse juries for the county have been led to investigate the complaints of those confined in the prison; in some instances, have exposed the horrors to which the wretched and miserable were reduced, and have, it is probable, been the means of exciting more attention on the part of the magistrates, and more humanity on the part of the jailors.

For these efforts, which would be honourable in any person, particularly in a young man born to affluence, was Sir Francis insulted by those who have not virtue to perform or applaud disinterested acts of genuine benevolence. Actions which immortalized and sanctified the name of Howard have, in Sir Francis Burdett, been branded with the most opprobrious epithets, as tending to weaken the bands of social order, and to excite a spirit of general discontent among the lower orders of society.

The ferment, however, which the interested and weak endeavoured to excite against his spirited and laudable exertions, has now had time to subside.

In Sir Francis's endeavours to expose the malpractices of the Cold-Bath-Fields Prison, well known for these seven or eight years by the name of the English Bastile, he was opposed constantly in the House of Commons by Mr. Mainwaring, the member for the county of Middlesex. They continually joined issue on the most important and interesting topics.

Sir Francis Burdett had been frequently mentioned

as a proper person to oppose the pretensions of Mr. Mainwaring to represent any longer this great and respectable county. His own intentions, we believe, were to decline a seat in parliament, until the 26th of June, three days before the dissolution of parliament, when the following letter was addressed to him:

TO SIR FRANCIS BURDETT, BART.

SIR

Having heard, from various quarters, of an intention in many freeholders to offer you their votes at the general election, as a fit person to represent the county of Middlesex in the next Parliament, we are anxious to know whether, in such event, you will stand forward, in compliance with their wishes. Our own votes, as well as our exertions among our friends, depend on your answer; for, assure yourself, we feel as you feel, with respect to the late ministers and their measures.

As Englishmen, we concur in your abhorrence of the use and management of such a prison as that in Cold Bath Fields. As freeholders we desire an occasion to express the sentiments we entertain of your manly opposition to the establishment in Middlesex.

In any case, we trust a majority of our fellow freeholders will agree with us, that Sir Francis Burdett is more worthy than Mr. Mainwaring to represent the interests, deliver the sense, and support the rights of the first county in England.

We remain, Sir, your obedient servants,

W. TOOKE.

MICH. PEARSON, &c.

ANSWER.

GENTLEMEN,

I will freely acknowledge to you, that I have for some time past relinquished all thoughts of a seat in Parliament, and have consequently declined very many overtures for that purpose. If the people of England are pleased and contented with what has passed, with their present situation, and with the terrible changes which have been made in the laws, constitution, and manner of governing

verning this country; let statues be erected in each county through the land, to Lord Liverpool, Mr. Pitt, and Mr. Dundas, to whom principally they are indebted for these blessings. I shall not desire to overturn them; but will remove from such odious and disgraceful objects, confessing myself not fit for the society of such a nation.

Yet, though disgusted I do not despair; I think our country may still be saved: but by one means only: by a fair representation of the people in Parliament. By that alone can we possibly obtain the restoration of those invaluable rights which have been ravished from us, or the security of what little good remains.

If the county of Middlesex, which, from circumstances, is likely to be more free, informed, and independent, than any other county in England, shall be pleased, upon this principle (and I wish for no support upon any other principle, holding all palliations nugatory and destructive) if upon this principle the county of Middlesex shall be pleased to intrust in my hands a portion of their present small and inadequate share of representation, I will chearfully and zealously devote myself, my life, and my fortune, to their service. I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient humble Servant,
FRANCIS BURDETT.

No. 78, *Piccadilly, June* 26, 1802.

We know, from good authority, that Sir Francis had previously declined several offers, among which was one of being brought into parliament for the town of Maidstone, at little or no expence. But it does not appear that he had any ambition to sit in parliament, unless, by being placed there, he could in an especial manner be considered as the representative of those principles which were essentially combined with the ancient constitution of the land. As an opponent to Mr. Mainwaring, the electors of the county were called upon to testify their opinions of the parliamentary conduct of the two men.

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At the outset of this business, and even after Sir Francis had declared himself a candidate, there did not appear in his committee that concert and zeal which should characterize the exertions of those entering upon so arduous a contest. Indeed, by some of his best friends and well-wishers, it was supposed that a serious contest on the part of the Baronet was not intended. The canvas, though in some respects active, was almost entirely neglected in several parts of the county. In others, for want of a preconcerted plan, two, three, or even four parties met in the same place on the same business. In short, Sir Francis Burdett did not by any means start on equal terms with the candidate whom he opposed: he had a thousand obstacles to contend with, which did not exist in any shape with regard to Mr. Mainwaring.

The long connection which the Chairman of the County Sessions had with his constituents, and his influence with his brother magistrates, afforded him not only great strength, but every means of knowing the electors and their residences. His influence as a magistrate, and his assiduity in performing the general business connected with the county, created in his behalf an almost irresistible interest.

The 13th of July was appointed for the election; the popular cry, was "Burdett and no Bastiles:" the show of hands was greatly in favour of Sir Francis. His colours waved in almost every hat, and his banners were considered, by the mass of the people, as consecrated to freedom.

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In his speech at the hustings, he took the opportunity to declare, he was not actuated by any private pique in the contest; that he did not even know Mr. Mainwaring.

"I am," said he, "impelled only by the feelings of humanity—the same feelings which impelled me when I first offered to make good my charges respecting that horrible dungeon (the Cold Bath-Fields Prison) at the bar of the House of Commons. On that ground I principally offer myself to you, trusting, as I hold it impossible that you can suffer a man who countenanced things so contrary to the constitution and the law of the land, to be again sent into Parliament as your representative, that you will join with me in bringing these things and the authors of them to light, and to punishment. I promise you here, that I will never quit the pursuit of these detestable criminals. I will persevere to the last; and I have no doubt that, aided, as I am convinced I shall be, by your support, I shall be ultimately and completely successful.

"I have only now to intreat, that you will understand, that it is not now the question merely, whether you shall choose Burdett or Mainwaring, but whether you will support that jail, and all the cruelties and tortures connected with it, and resulting necessarily from the system by which it has been regulated."

On the shew of hands the sheriff declared the sense of the electors to be in favour of Mr. Byng and Sir Francis Burdett: Mr. Mainwaring demanded a poll; and had on the first day a majority of nearly four hundred voters. At the end of the eleventh day Mr. Mainwaring's majority was 503; but in the three next days Sir Francis advanced rapidly upon his adversary, and on the evening of the fourteenth day the majority against him was but fourteen.

This success roused the languid spirits of the unpolled freeholders, who, till then, thinking his cause

 desperate,

desperate, would not take the trouble of voting. The enthusiasm in behalf of the popular candidate was universal. The poll had not been opened many minutes on the last day, before Sir Francis obtained a majority over Mr. Mainwaring, and at the final close he had a majority of 271 votes; and it is confidently said, that when the books were shut, the unpolled friends of Sir Francis, either in the town or approaching it, amounted to nearly two hundred.

The knowledge that this was the last day of the poll, and the probability amounting almost to a certainty, that the popular candidate would be successful, elevated the spirits of almost every human being that attended on the road. Every inch of ground between Piccadilly and Brentford was crowded beyond example. The enthusiasm was general; and the joy manifested at the triumph of the popular candidate, was such as was never before witnessed in this, or perhaps in any country on the face of the globe.

In his address to the freeholders of Middlesex, Sir Francis Burdett says:

"Gentlemen, for having done my duty in my place in parliament against the barbarous, cruel system of secret close imprisonment, I was stigmatized by the Lord Lieutenant of this county: and, in violation of the privileges of parliament, and of all law and decency, I was proclaimed by him throughout the land, as a person not fit to be trusted to visit or perform an office of humanity to any wretched victim within the accursed walls. Permit me to say, it belonged to the same county to wipe away this undeserved stigma; and you have done it nobly."

Such is the Baronet's own observation; the charge which he exhibits is known to every body; not a

 freeholder

freeholder in Middlesex but has read it in the public papers, properly signed, and attested in due form. What has been the result? Those freeholders thought, and wisely thought, that none should have any concern in making laws, who were regardless of that purity, integrity, and humanity with which they should be administered. On this principle they chose Sir Francis Burdett, in defiance of the obloquy thrown upon him by the highest officer of the county. By him he was declared ineligible to enter a prison for any purposes of humanity; by the freeholders he has been esteemed the best qualified of any man in the kingdom, for talents, independence, and purity of principle, to represent them in the British Legislature.

This contest between Mr. Mainwaring and Sir Francis, was not decided upon principles dictated by political party: the constituents conceived it to turn upon an abuse of civil authority.

On these principles the Middlesex election undoubtedly turned; upon these principles, many, whose political opinions were adverse to those avowed by Sir Francis, not only voted for him, but manfully espoused his cause. Among the electors that voted for him, may be found Whigs and Tories joining hands and hearts in favour of the rights of humanity.

We may, therefore, look upon this triumph, not as the triumph of the individual, but as that of the sacred cause of humanity, and the bulwark of the British Constitution, of which Sir Francis is the representative.

When we view these exertions in behalf of the

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claims of humanity, we know there can be no cause for desponding of our country. In the zealous, spirited, persevering, independent, and philanthropic character of such men as Sir Francis Burdett, the public may, with confidence, repose themselves and their privileges. As a people, as a great people, compared with other nations around us, our energies seem to expand, and our hopes, in whatever is valuable to freemen, seem to revive. There are parts of the constitution that still live; that possess a vigour superior to opposition, and, we trust, that are not to be crushed by corruption.

Sir Francis Burdett, to whose character as a public man we have not done that justice that we could have wished, is in private life one of the most amiable and unassuming men in the world. He possesses all the accomplishments of an orator; an elegant and manly figure; his countenance is handsome and very prepossessing; his voice is strong and musical: he never delivers his sentiments but with the energy of a man who speaks as he feels.

He married, about eight years since, the amiable Miss Coutts, by whom he has a son about seven years old and two daughters. That the father-in-law should feel interested in the election of his son, no one who has been a parent will be surprized at; but beyond this he never proceeded. Mr. Coutts is not a political character; he has always been in the habit of doing business with persons of all parties; and with characters of every description, from the monarch to the merchant; yet he has been

reviled

reviled for assisting Sir Francis, but certainly by those only who knew not the extent of Sir Francis Burdett's fortune, which was fully equal to all the expences of the election.

To the frequenters of Newmarket, and the gaming-tables of St. James's Street, it may appear wonderful for a young man, in high life, to be in possession of ready money for such an occassion. But Sir Francis is not a man that runs into the fashionable vices or expences of his contemporaries; his delight is in doing good, and he is always prepared with his purse to be able to perform acts which his heart delights in. His fortune has ever been ample since he succeeded to his title, and within these three years he came to the possession of a very large unincumbered landed property in Wiltshire, upon the death of Lady Jones, whose name he was obliged to take; but by passing through some expensive legal ceremonies, which it would be needless to state here, he was enabled again to take his own family-name; and a more honourable and virtuous representative than the present Baronet, the family never could boast of.

MR. JAMES WATT.

THE character and talents of this excellent man are not known so extensively as they merit. Among mechanicians and men of science, indeed, the celebrity of the name of WATT yields to that of no living character. To hold up the benefactors of mankind

to the view of that society which they have benefited, to endeavour to appreciate their talents, and thereby to excite a sense of gratitude in the minds of the public to their best friends, have been the leading objects of the former volumes of the "Public Characters;" these also are the traits by which the present and future parts of the work will be eminently distinguished.

Mr. Watt is a native of Glasgow, where he was born about the year 1736 or 1737. He is descended not from affluent, but truly respectable parents, who took special care of the education of their son.

In his earlier days, young Watt was considered as a reserved lad, often separating himself from the companions of his youth, and devoting many of those hours to the improvement of his mind which by cthers were dissipated in childish sports. He was not, however, wanting in sociability, but frequently entered into all the amusements of his schoolfellows, ever assuming a will of his own, when any matter in dispute led him to exert that spirit of high independence which has so steadily marked his character and conduct.

Having finished his grammatical studies, and laid a solid foundation in the several branches of useful and important knowledge, he was, at the age of sixteen, articled as an apprentice to learn the art of "an instrument-maker;" a sort of business of which we have no idea in the metropolis of the united kingdom; and, indeed, which is not now common even in Glasgow, or other large towns, either in north or

south

south Britain. At that period this profession included the making and repairing of the instruments made use of in experiments in mechanics and natural philosophy; the manufacture, in a rough way, of all kinds of musical instruments, and of theodolites, quadrants, and other instruments necessary for the practice of land-surveying.

It will, perhaps, be thought that an apprenticeship to a profession which included the knowledge of so many things was not propitious to the rising talents of a young man of genius, whose mind would be more likely to be diverted and distracted by many objects, than seriously bent to the acquirement of one which should of itself lay the foundation of his future fame. There are, however, advantages which attach themselves to situations of this kind, since the inventive powers are called forth, and young men have frequent opportunities of conversing with persons of talents and genius, who require the assistance of mechanics, either in the repair or alteration of those machines devoted to experiment or discovery.

In Scotland three years are considered as sufficient in every respect to learn a trade; and, if young people are not bound apprentices for the sake of obtaining certain privileges, they are rarely articled for a longer term. In professions of no great difficulty, this period will be amply sufficient, and will afford the youth two or three extra years, which may be dedicated to the acquirement of school learning.

When Mr. Watt had completed the term of his apprenticeship, he came to London, and worked

about a year with a mathematical instrument-maker in the regular line of trade. During this period he acquired ready methods of dispatching business, but, by sitting in winter near the door of the workshop, he caught a severe cold, the effect of which he has felt, at times, to the present hour.

Having remained but little more than twelve months in the metropolis, Mr. Watt returned to his native country, where he commenced a business of the same sort as that to which he had been brought up, uniting the several arts of mathematical and musical instrument-maker with those of measuring and land-surveying. Although no great sums are to be gained by such pursuits in Scotland, yet, wherever there is business requiring such a diversity of talents, the remuneration must be adequate to keep a man from want; and, accordingly, we find Mr. Watt acquiring, not only a comfortable subsistence, but what was sufficient also to enable him to pursue a course of experiments on which his active mind was bent.

While he was in this situation, one of those fortunate accidents took place which frequently call into action the talents of great minds, and which bring into deserved notice modest and obscure worth.

The professor who lectured on natural philosophy at the university of Glasgow, had occasion to apply to Mr. Watt, to repair the model of a steam-engine, which, by length of time, had become unfit for exhibiting to the class the powerful effects of steam. The mind of the artist was struck with the contrivance of the engine, and instantly perceived defects which

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he felt himself equal to remedy, and contemplated improvements which would render it more generally subservient to the uses of society. From this hour, though he still continued his former profession, his whole attention was fixed upon the improvement of the steam-engine; every other object was subordinate; every other pursuit was followed merely for the sake of subsistence only, but the steam-engine was to lay the foundation of his future fame and fortune.

The discovery of this important engine is no common occurrence; it has already been applied in a thousand different ways to facilitate human labour, and to effect operations to which no other known power is equal.

The principle of the steam-engine was undoubtedly discovered by the Marquis of Worcester, and described by him in his "Century of Inventions," about the year 1663; and, although his account of this machine is not so complete as to give a distinct notion of its structure and operations, yet it is such as shews that it was not a mere random conjecture, resting upon no foundation. "This admirable method," says the Marquis, "which I propose of raising water by the force of fire, has no bound if the vessel be strong enough. Having discovered a method of fortifying vessels, and combining them in such a way that they filled and acted alternately, I have made water spout in an uninterrupted stream forty feet high, and one vessel of rarefied water raised forty of cold. The person who conducted the operation had nothing to do but turn two cocks, so that one vessel

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of water being consumed, another begins to force, and then to fill itself with cold water, and so on in succession."

Such are the Marquis's own words, but it does not appear whether he ever attempted to carry his scheme into execution on a large scale; and it was not till nearly forty years after the "Century of Inventions" were made public, that Captain Savary executed a machine on this principle for raising water. For this invention he obtained a patent; and then, in a work entitled the MINER'S FRIEND, he set forth, in a very explicit manner, the nature and principles of the steam-engine.

Mr. Savary applied his machines to the draining of the tin-mines in Cornwall, and in most instances, where the depth was not considerable, he succeeded in his attempts. This limited degree of success excited the attention of several ingenious mechanics, among whom were Mr. Newcomen, an ironmonger, and Mr. Crawley, a glazier, of Dartmouth, in Devonshire. The former was a man of considerable reading, was well acquainted with the celebrated Dr. Hooke, with whose writings and projects he was also conversant. After many ingenious speculations and experiments, by which he greatly improved Savary's machine, he, Captain Savary and Crawley, were contented to share the profits, and for that purpose associated, and procured a patent in the year 1705 for that particular machine, which has ever since been known by the name of NEWCOMEN'S ENGINE.

The great difference between Savary's original machine

machine and Newcomen's improved one, is, that the former raises water by the force of steam, but in the latter the operation is effected by the pressure of the atmosphere, and steam is employed merely as the most expeditious method of producing a void, in which the atmospherical pressure may impel the *first mover* of the machine.

The superiority of Newcomen's engine to Savary's consists, first, in the moderate heat which is necessary to work it with, and, consequently, at a much smaller expence of fuel; secondly, let the mine be ever so deep, a cylinder may be employed of such dimensions that the pressure of the air on its piston may exceed, in any degree, the weight of the column of water to be raised; and, lastly, the form of the machine renders it applicable to almost any mechanical purpose, because a skilful workman can readily find a method of converting the reciprocating motion of the working-beam into a motion of any kind which may suit his purpose.

Inventions improve by degrees. The patent for this engine was taken out in 1705, but so many difficulties occurred in the execution, that it was full seven years before it had secured the public confidence. The most exact and unremitting attention was required to hit upon the precise moment of opening and shutting the cocks. Stops were contrived, strings and wires were used to connect the handles of the cocks with the beam, so that the same motion of the lever should at once shut one cock and open the other. At length, in the year 1717, Mr. Beighton,

Beighton, a very ingenious artist, simplified the whole of these subordinate movements, and brought the engine into the form in which it has continued, without any material change, to the present day. The efficacy and certainty of its operations were completely ascertained, and a great many of them were brought into use among miners of all descriptions. The great obstacle to the extensive use of the steam-engine was the prodigious expenditure of coals, as a large one working night and day consumed at the rate of nearly 4000 chaldron of good coals in a year.

A thousand fruitless attempts were made to reduce this consumption. Every engineer had his own device in the construction of his furnace; but after all their attempts, the real improvements were of no material advantage. Science was not sufficiently developed. Dr. Black's discovery of *latent* heat shewed the way of estimating the relation that subsisted between the heat expended and the quantity of steam produced. This was about the year 1763, and at the precise period when Mr. Watt was called on to repair the model of the steam-engine to which we have before referred. He had been a pupil to the celebrated lecturer in chemistry, had imbibed his spirit, and had formed an intimate acquaintance with him.

While Mr. Watt was directing his attention to fitting up the model of Newcomen's engine, a variety of curious facts occurred to him, relative to the production and condensation of steam; among others, that remarkable fact, which was ever after appealed to by Dr. Black, as a proof of the immense quantity

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of heat which is contained in a small quantity of water in the form of elastic steam. When, for instance, a quantity of water is heated several degrees above the boiling point in a close digester, if a hole be suddenly opened, the steam rushes out with prodigious violence, and the heat of the remaining water is reduced, in the course of only two or three seconds, to the boiling temperature. The water of the steam which has issued, amounts, perhaps, to but a few drops, and yet these have carried off with them the whole excess of heat from the water in the digester.

Since then a small quantity of steam contains so great a quantity of heat, it must expend a great quantity of fuel, nor can it be prevented by any construction of the furnace. Mr. Watt readily saw this, and set himself to find out methods of husbanding heat. He soon discovered that not less than three or four times the quantity of steam was wasted in comparison of that which went to the working of the machine. He made many attempts to diminish this waste, which it would be useless to particularize, and which were sufficient to convince him that no real and effectual saving could be obtained, so long as the condensation was performed in the cylinder. He attempted it in another place; the experiment was conducted on the simplest plan, and it succeeded beyond his most sanguine expectations. He repeated it in a more accurate manner; the condensation was so rapid, that he could scarcely measure the time taken up in the performance of it. The vacuum in the cylinder

was, according to the hopes he had indulged, almost perfect.

Having gained this capital point, Mr. Watt found many difficulties to struggle with. The water produced by the condensed steam, and the air extricated from it, required pumps to extract them, which at length he contrived to work by the great beam.

During the progress of these improvements, Mr. Watt made many experiments on the quantity and denſity of the steam of boiling water. By these he was convinced, that although he had greatly diminished the waste of steam, a great deal yet remained to be done, and that the steam expended during the rise of the piston, was at least three times more than would fill the cylinder. Mr. Watt's fertile genius immediately suggested to him the expedient of employing the elasticity of the steam from the boiler to impel the piston down the cylinder, in place of the pressure of the atmosphere; and by this improvement, he restored the engine to its first principles, making it *an engine really moved by steam*, not by air.

When a person skilled in mechanics and chemistry reviews the different forms of Mr. Watt's steam-engine, he will readily perceive, that they are susceptible of a great variety of shapes, in which the distinguishing improvements may be employed. The first great improvement was the condensation in a separate vessel. This increased the original powers of the engine, and greatly diminished the waste of steam. The next improvement, by employing the elastic pressure of the steam, instead of that of the

atmosphere,

atmosphere, aimed not only at a still farther diminution of the waste, but was fertile in advantages, rendering the machine more manageable, and enabling the operator to suit the power of the engine to its work, in almost any given proportion; and the third improvement renders it as uniform in its action as any water-wheel.

Such is the brief outline of a history of the steam-engine. It is impossible, in a work like this, to enter into a description of its various parts, which, properly to elucidate, would require the aid of several plates.

It remains only to be observed, that with Mr. Watt is associated the no less celebrated mechanic and philosopher Mr. Boulton. They have shared the patent from the beginning, and the alliance is honourable to both.

The advantages derived from the patent-right shew both the superiority of the engine and the liberal minds of the proprietors. They agree to erect the engines at the expence of the employers, and claim only as a compensation for their labours, one-third of the annual savings in fuel, when compared with the expenditure in one of the best common engines. By this mode of remuneration, than which nothing can be more honourable, the patentees are excited to do their utmost to make the engine perfect, while the employer pays only in proportion to the advantage he derives from it.

In consequence of the great superiority of Mr. Watt's engines, both with respect to economy and manageableness,

manageableness, they have become of extensive use; and in every manufactory on a large scale, they afford an indefatigable servant, whose strength is without bounds. The greatest mechanical object that ever engaged the attention of man, was a few years since on the point of being executed by this machine. The States of Holland were treating with Mess. Watt and Boulton for draining the Haerlem, Meer, and even reducing the Zuyder Zee, when the late disastrous war defeated, at least for the present, the important project. So unlimited, indeed, are the powers afforded by this machine, that the engineer now thinks, that no task can be proposed to him which he cannot execute with manifest profit to the employer.

It would be difficult to appreciate the advantages resulting to the nation from Mr. Watt's invention. By his engine, a vast number of mines have been worked, both in copper and tin, which must without it have been forever useless; and it is said that the important article of coals would, without the steam-engine, have, even at this moment, been a scarce article. The advantages of these machines have by no means, however, been confined to the working of mines; they have been applied to the turning of mills, to the navigating of vessels, to the performance of all the heavy work in large breweries, and, in short, to almost every manufactory where a great and constant power is called for. In a national view the savings in men and horses are immense. A single engine having a cy-

linder

linder of thirty-one inches in diameter, will perform the work of 120 horses; and for every hundred weight of coal consumed, 20,000 cubic feet of water may be raised 24 feet high.

We have interrupted the narrative of the inventor's life, in order to explain, in a popular way, the nature and excellence of his invention, which, however, was not brought to perfection without considerable difficulties and embarrassment on the part of Mr. Watt. In the progress of the discovery, many experiments were necessary to be made, both on a small and large scale, and for these experiments considerable sums of money were wanting, which, in a very short time, put a stop to the business.

Mr. Watt had married a lady without fortune, by whom he had two children; he was therefore obliged to lay aside speculations, and to pay attention to business for the sake of his family. Dr. Roebuck, a gentleman who possessed a small fortune and considerable merit, joined Mr. Watt, but their means were inadequate to so vast an undertaking, and a failure was the consequence. In this situation was superior genius struggling, when Mr. Boulton, in the year 1773, became acquainted with the business. His knowledge of mechanics enabled him to appreciate the invention, and the spirit of enterprize, and the fortune he possessed, induced him to engage in it with ardour. Mr. Roebuck was reimbursed with ample interest, and Mr. Watt, having lost his wife, immediately settled at Birmingham, and was indefatigable

in bringing to perfection, and extending the sale of his engines.

A more fortunate conjunction could not have been imagined. The union of two such men as Watt and Boulton was equal to any enterprize. They are both celebrated for highly cultivated and liberal minds; both indefatigable in business; the latter was in possession of money to carry any scheme into effect, while, in the mind of the former, resources and expedients were found sufficient to overcome every difficulty with which their projects might be embarrassed.

An act of parliament was obtained to prolong the patent, which had nearly expired in making experiments at an enormous expenditure. Parliament, faithful to the trust reposed in it, prolonged, without difficulty, the exclusive privilege for twenty-five years, which expired with the last century.

We have already alluded to the mode by which a revenue was drawn by the patentees; it was singularly ingenious, as well as founded upon the most liberal principles. A great number of experiments were set on foot, in the presence of men of knowledge and undoubted honour and veracity, to ascertain what was the saving of fuel in performing the same quantity of work with the new engine, compared with what was used in the old one.

The dimensions of the cylinder, and number of strokes were taken, as the measure of the work done, so that *counting* machines, fixed tothe engine, were contrived to number every stroke taken, and at the end

end of certain periods, these were opened, in the presence of the parties interested, the quantity of work ascertained, and the savings calculated; one-third of which was paid to the inventors; while the remaining two-thirds were clear gain to the proprietors. Upon a single mine in Cornwall, the annual revenue claimed by Mess. Boulton and Watt, upon three engines, was 2400l. consequently the saving to the proprietors of that mine were but little short of 5000l. per annum; while, to the country at large, there was a saving of fuel equal in value to more than 7000l. a-year.

It has been estimated by those who have gone into the detail of the business, and who have made their calculations on sure principles, that steam-engines are to the nation at large a saving of 75,000l. per day. An invention so important, combining so many advantages, and attended with so much individual and national profit, is of itself sufficient to immortalize the genius and superior talents of him who has brought it to perfection. But the mind of Watt has shewn itself capable of a thousand other inventions, which, though of less utility, are not without their advantages. The time we have taken in describing his grand work, will prevent us from following him in others of inferior moment, yet we cannot wholly pass over his *copying-machines*, which are gradually coming into general use. By the help of one of these, what has taken a person several hours to write, may be copied in a few seconds; the advantage of these to the merchant and man of business is readily

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estimated; to the man of literature, who commits the labour of years to the hands of the printer, it is not less desirable that he should retain a copy of his work, in case of accidents, which sometimes occur by the carelessness of those persons through whose hands such manuscripts are obliged to pass.

In the earlier part of Mr. Watt's life, in conjunction with Dr. Black, he made a vast variety of experiments on latent heat; was long and intimately acquainted with Dr. Priestly, Dr. Darwin, and M. de Luc. He is said not to be a profound mathematician, and seldom extends his speculations to the more abstruse parts of that science. His genius lays in invention, in a general knowledge of mechanics and geometry; in these he excels not so much by means of long calculations, and intricate experiments, as by a sort of intuitive feeling of what is practicable and what is not so.

Soon after Mr. Watt had settled at Birmingham, he married a second wife, Miss M^c^Gregor of Glasgow, a lady of considerable accomplishments, endowed with an excellent understanding, and who unremittingly fulfils the duties of a good mother and a good wife.

The incidents in the life of a man devoted either to literature or mechanics are generally few: absorbed in his favourite pursuits, he has no leisure for entering into those scenes which give variety to memoirs of men of the world: he keeps in the bosom of his family, and emerges not into the busy hum of society. Mr. Watt will long be considered as the be-

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nefactor of society, rather than as an active member of it. In private life, he is an agreeable, unassuming, and very instructive companion. Like the late Lord Camden, he is excessively attached to the reading of novels; he allows himself a certain time to his meals, and at these times he is rarely without one of those light compositions in his hand or on his table. He is subject to excruciating head-achs, but is patient and calm under the greatest pain. He is in the truest and best sense of the term a real philosopher, who has lived less for himself than for the society of which he is a member. By his steam-engine he is a benefactor to the world; it is introduced into all civilized countries; and we regret that we are obliged to say, that thousands are benefited by his labours who are unwilling to acknowledge his merits.

M. Prony, of France, one of the ablest engineers and mathematicians of the age, in his "New Hydraulic Architecture," dedicated a whole quarto volume to the description of Mr. Watt's steam-engine, accompanied with engraved views and plans of all its parts, without once mentioning the name of the inventor.

The Perriers of Paris purchased, in the year 1779, an engine of Messrs. Boulton and Watt, in order to supply some parts of that city with water: these gentlemen are repeatedly mentioned in Prony's work, which would lead the reader to suppose that they, instead of our countryman Watt, were the inventors. This, if done designedly, is much beneath the well-earned reputation of M. Prony, who, living within the

the space of a mile to that engine, which was purchased at Soho, ought to have made himself so much acquainted with its history, as to have done justice to the genius and talents of the inventor.

MR. JOHN PALMER.

LATE COMPTROLLER OF THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

THIS gentleman was born in Bath, where his father carried on a very considerable brewery, and was engaged in other extensive concerns; his mother was descended from the Longs, one of the oldest and most respectable families of that city.

He was sent, while very young, to an academy at Coleme, a few miles distant from Bath, then kept by the Rev. Mr. Needham. Young Palmer was much distinguished by his master at this seminary for the quickness of his parts, and by his school-fellows for an enterprizing spirit, as well as a total indifference to pre-eminence in the classes; but from being disposed to kindness, and a great favourite with Mr. Needham, he was generally deputed, when it was thought necessary, to solicit favour, or deprecate punishment; and he generally succeeded in both. He differed, however, from his playmates in regard to his studies, for whenever a new author was put in his hands, he scarcely ever rested till he had obtained a tolerable knowledge of his merits, and would never sit down contented with himself till he could translate the whole with facility; and after that point was atchieved, he would return to a kind of voluptuous

tuous periodical idleness, till it became again absolutely necessary to return to his task, which he would perform with a readiness that again left him to the busy idleness he so much loved, at this period of his boyish days. He had rapidly gone through the principal classics of the school, when his father was prevailed upon, by a clerical relation of the same name, resident in Marlborough, a gentleman universally known and much distinguished in the neighbourhood there, to remove his son to the public school of that town, there being annexed to it some valuable scholarships and exhibitions introductory to Oxford and Cambridge; and it was presumed this would give him the chance of being preferred to one of these, as well as put him in training for his paternal destination, the church.

Young Palmer, however, had predetermined in favour of the army; and after a stout contention betwixt the sword and the surplice, it was a drawn battle; and he was reluctantly compelled, at scarcely fourteen years of age, to leave school, and, what was still nearer his heart, an excellent pack of hounds, which were kept by Parson Palmer; and, what was worse than all, to submit to the drudgery of mercantile business. Still, however, he repeated his solicitations for a commission in the army, and continued his contempt and neglect of business. This military passion occasioned frequent altercations, and called forth reproach from one of the best, and otherwise most indulgent parents. But there is certainly such a thing as family obstinacy; or, shall we soften

soften the term, by calling it hereditary perseverance? One day after a violent dispute on the martial theme, young Palmer came to a sudden resolution of levelling all impediments. To effect this, he bought a waistcoat and trowsers, went into the brewery, and worked in the most laborious and servile parts of that business; and, indeed, in every part of it, for nearly a year; associating all that time only with the servants, labouring and faring precisely as if he had been one of them.

During this steady plan of operation he detached himself entirely from the family; this magnanimous resolution at length gave way, but not before he had nearly put a period not only to his martial but mortal history. The undertaking happened to require a strength of body as well as of mind, and our young gentleman, still of tender age, was by no means equal to its drudgery; and when it was almost too late, he was compelled to retire into the country, under the care of a physician, to stop the progress of an incipient consumption. Youth and time, however, those excellent physicians, brought him back to health of body, and to calmer feelings and reflection of mind. He returned to books and to study, and had half persuaded himself to enter the church, when renovated health and spirits sounded the drum and trumpet again in his ears, and silenced all suggestions pointed to the gown and cassock.

Mr. Palmer senior had been induced, in partnership with nine other inhabitants of the city of Bath, at this period, to erect a new and elegant theatre, on

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the solemn assurance of the proprietors of a former miserable substitute for one, to apply the old building to some other purpose, as soon as they had completed theirs, which would afford such superior accommodation and entertainment for the public. But, no sooner was the new theatre found to be highly successful, than the proprietors of the old one broke their faith, enlarged and fitted up the ancient play-barn, for it was little better; and in consequence of this unfair dealing, a violent and expensive opposition was carried on for several years, to the infinite loss of both parties. During the contest, the partners of Mr. Palmer senior were disheartened by their losses, and retired from the concern. Mr. Palmer purchased their different shares, and thus becoming the sole owner fought out the battle stoutly, and compelled his adversary at last to withdraw his opposition, on condition of receiving a considerable annuity.

In progress of time, from the great increase of the city, the theatre had grown into a valuable property; but it was still unprotected by the law, and, of course, liable to opposition from any adventurers that might choose to erect another; a scheme at that time in serious contemplation of the owners of property in the new town. It is well known that a very severe act of parliament then existed against the public exhibition of dramatic performances, limiting the prerogative of the crown to the granting any future patents or licences beyond those already in existence for Covent Garden and Drury Lane; and

and this limitation was to the place of the king's residence, and only during such residence.

His Majesty, therefore, had not the power of extending his protection to a theatre at Bath: consequently the security of the property in question, and the personal safety of the performers from the rigour of the law, would be both at hazard, unless an act of parliament could be first obtained to grant such liberty.

Accordingly a petition was presented to parliament from Mr. Palmer's father for this purpose, which was warmly and generously supported by his friends, the magistrates of the city. Young Palmer was deputed to solicit, at a very early age, this novel and difficult act of the Legislature; and after considerable opposition, he succeeded in obtaining not that only, but his Majesty's patent, which was the first act of parliament of this kind ever passed for an English theatre.

The accomplishment of this undertaking gained the young negociator great credit, for his activity and address introduced him to the personal knowledge and regard of many eminent characters, whose warmest friendship and zeal to his interest continued during their lives.

Amongst these, were the late late venerable Earl Camden, the Recorder of Bath, the Duke of Kingston, Marquis of Lansdown, Lord Aylesbury, Mr. Dunning, Messrs. Garrick, Colman, Harris, and Sheridan; for the last named gentleman he has invariably retained the highest personal regard, and has paid due honour to his high qualities and talents, independently of

of all political opinions and sentiments, while between him and the present proprietor of Covent Garden theatre, Mr. Harris, there has subsisted the most affectionate interchange of friendship for a long course of years. He particularly endeared himself to our English Roscius from a manly defence of his old friend Arthur, one of the first comedians of the age, then acting manager to the theatre of Mr. Palmer's father. Arthur had been attacked by the famous Derrick, the then master of the ceremonies, and much private abuse had been poured upon him by the weekly critics, so as to render him obnoxious to the public. Indignant at this, young Palmer wielded his maiden pen, and, in two letters, the one defending Arthur, the other attacking Derrick, he completely turned the tables upon the latter, brought merited disgrace upon the aggressor, and restored the injured Arthur to the re-enjoyment of public applause. These letters, which appeared in the Bath Journal of that day, considered as the production of almost a schoolboy, were extremely successful, and became the topic of public conversation.

But although he had now attained one of his favourite objects in the grant of the patent, he did not find the management of the theatre sufficient to employ his active mind, and he therefore engaged yet more extensively in other concerns. He now took the shell of a large house and grounds at a little distance from the city, called West-hall, moulded the house into a comfortable mansion, with suitable offices, and established a considerable spermaceti manufactory;

manufactory; an art, at that time understood by very few houses in the kingdom, but which proved to our adventurer a very profitable speculation. A circumstance occurred, however, which called his attention, for a time, exclusively to the theatre. This was no less than a declaration, signed by all the performers, one excepted, purporting, that, unless Mr. Palmer would discharge his acting manager, they would throw up their engagements. The gentleman who had thus unfortunately excited their resentment, was the justly celebrated Mr. Lee, father of the very worthy author of the Recess, and many other elegant productions, and of her amiable and ingenious sisters, now living at Bath, in the esteem of the public, and love of their friends. Mr. Lee was undoubtedly an actor of uncommon talents, but somewhat too rigid in his management, and, perhaps, too impetuous in his disposition. Mr. Palmer, though always a staunch lover of independence, and a promoter, as it will hereafter be seen, of every species of honourable reform, was, nevertheless, a supporter of good government, and, of course, he did not submit to threats and combinations, but, mounting his horse, he sallied forth on a theatrical tour many hundred miles, for he triumphed over distance on every occasion. In the course of a fortnight he examined the strength of most of the provincial companies in the kingdom; from these he selected a new set of performers, who were approved by the public, and he parted with the insurgents.

In the ensuing season, the manager embracing another

another situation, he appointed the actor who alone had adhered to his engagement, as his successor, a gentleman universally well known and beloved at Bath, for his integrity, good sense, and merit, both public and private, the late Mr. Keasbury, who afterwards, conjunctly with Mr. Dimond, purchased the patent, we believe, for 20,000l.

From the success of these excursions, and second trial of his talents for negotiation, he was induced to pay a more marked attention to the interests of the theatre, and, for some years after, he regularly took a survey of most of the companies of the kingdom. He had a list, constantly fresh and augmenting, of every person of any promise, to whom he might resort as occasion demanded. Dimond, Henderson, the late Mr. Edwin, and that theatrical wonder of the times, Mrs. Siddons, with many other performers of the highest order, first evinced their genius under his fostering auspices.

Mr. Palmer had no less success in his solicitation for a patent to the Bristol theatre, which soon after was united to that of Bath. At this period of his theatrical success, perhaps few men, in point of personal agility as well as energy of mind, could surpass Mr. Palmer. It is well known to have been a common practice with him, either by relays of his own, or by post-horses, to ride from Bath to London in a day, and not unfrequently to dinner, and in the same rapid manner, to measure different parts of the kingdom, on the concerns of others as well as his own, which

which were at that time chiefly to supply his theatres with a succession of good actors.

But out of these comparatively unimportant motives of travel, sprung the first ideas of that noble object, which was afterwards to be of so much consequence to the riches and commerce of his country, and of which it will be at once a pleasing and painful duty to speak copiously and unreservedly in the progress of this memoir. Thomas Palmer still devoted much of his time to many mercantile concerns; he dedicated a due proportion to various plans for the improvement and interest of his favourite native city, particularly of the old town, and to the wisdom of these plans the inhabitants are even now so partial, that they believe, if they had been universally pursued, they would have saved their property from the depreciation it has experienced.

Mr. Palmer has filled all the honorary offices of the city of Bath with the highest degree of credit. His mayoralty will long be remembered, as it was marked with strong features of loyalty, magnificence, and benevolence, at a period of uncommon public difficulty. During his mayoralty, Mr. Palmer published a letter recommending a general subscription for the service of government: the measure was adopted by ministers; and the relation of Mr. Palmer, Mr. Long, and his sisters, paid their subscription of 3000 guineas, and Mr. Palmer himself, being the first in the kingdom who proposed it, subscribed a due share of his fortune, in conformity with the spririt of his publication.

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A week after the publication of the letter to which we allude, appeared a second, the object of which was, to recommend a subscription towards the payment of the interest and principal of the loan, and the expence of a vigorous prosecution of the war, if found ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. This letter is a kind of animated expostulation on the expediency of those plans he had previously set forth. In both the one and the other he acted purely and warmly from the unbounded impulse of a benevolent disposition, without communicating, he tells us, with any person whatever but his kinsman, Mr. Long, who is considered as one of the richest commoners in England, and whose secret and unostentatious acts of liberality are only known to his own bosom, and the very few who are necessarily in his confidence.

But praise-worthy as all these operations of an active mind certainly are, and much as Mr. Palmer's friends, in particular, and the respectable cities of Bath and Bristol in general, are benefited by the exertions of a sagacious and upright magistrate, and much, also, as is due to the principal proprietor of a rational amusement, the conduct of which we have traced to the sources of a wise head and a good heart; and although these of themselves, when combined in the character of any individual, constitute a very estimable member of the empire, the value of John Palmer to that empire would be weighed in a very partial scale indeed were we to neglect, or even slightly to mention, that circumstance which is powerful enough to turn the balance in his favour, as para-

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mount to all the rest, in a public estimate, were there none other to be conjoined.

We have been at some pains to gather the materials of the life of this gentleman, independent of the grand project, the attainment of which forms the acmé of his character, and will, in respect of public utility, perpetuate his name while the commerce of the country, or the country itself, has existence.

In considering this great and magnificent object, our inquiries must be directed far beyond the cities of Bristol or Bath, whence we have gleaned the incidents of his early life, his school habits, his connections, and an account of his general affairs, in which traits he may resemble a thousand other ingenious and good men. We must carry our investigations on the point alluded to into the most distant parts of the island; we must extend our scrutiny far beyond its boundaries; we must press the research to our fair dependencies on the allied kingdoms; we must even pass the seas; and, from the result of the whole survey, we shall see how far the services of John Palmer have gone towards cementing the great union of the empire, by facilitating and guarding the vitals of that union, its trade, its riches, and its affections; and how far every individual that composes that union, whether king, minister, or merchant, Hibernian, Englishman, or North Britain, owes him gratitude and honour.

And in these inquiries we shall follow the laudable example of the very commissioners who searched and analyzed his plan before they made their reports, by examining

examining every evidence and every party for and against, selected from a body of evidence and mass of information; nay, zealous of truth, we will re-examine their examinations, and re-analyze their analysis.

The history of the post-office reform, and the circumstances connected therewith, though voluminous in detail, and lying in a mass of materials, is susceptible of abridgment; and, as it is more or less interesting to all conditions of readers, we shall here smile on the labour to present the public with a very brief, indeed, but true abstract of the event, and the circumstances in connection with it, so far as relates to the grand object of public good conceived and executed by this extraordinary man.

Mr. Palmer having been suspended from the conduction of this great national object, and his profits from the per centage on the net improved revenue of the post-office for life, as agreed to by Government, being limited to 3000l. per annum; he was informed by his counsel that he could obtain no redress in any of the judicial courts, or by a jury, from his having made his agreement with an officer of the crown, and, by their advice, applied to the House of Commons, requesting an investigation of his claims and conduct. A committee was, in consequence, appointed for that purpose, and the evidence taken before them being printed and laid before the house, the honourable Mr. Pierrepoint, after a short and able exordium on the great national benefits derived from the plan, on Mr. Palmer's merits and exertions, and the further public advantage to be expected from

 them,

them, and on the acknowledgment of both post-masters-general, in their evidence, of his ability and most perfect integrity, proceeded to state the following, amongst various other facts, established before the committee, and reported by them to the House. It appeared, from this report, that Mr. Palmer's contract with Government was, that, if he should be able to carry his plan into execution for extending and improving the posts, and for the more safe, expeditious, and regular conveyance of the mails, he was to have for his life two and a half per cent, or the fortieth part only, of all the future net increased revenue of the post-office; but, in case of failure, he was not to receive a shilling for his sacrifices in the neglect of his other concerns, expences, trouble, &c. It is to be observed, that, during the sixty years preceding this agreement, notwithstanding the great increase in the trade and commerce of the country through so long a period, the net revenue of the post-office had experienced no increase whatever, except what it derived from an alteration in the postage and the restriction on franks, laid on in 1764-5; on the contrary, for the nine years preceding the adoption of Mr. Palmer's plan, it had decreased 13,198l. 13s. per annum.

Mr. Palmer having, after some years perseverance against a continued opposition, effected his plan, and, agreeable to his stipulation, never having, during the whole of that period, received one shilling from Government, was then, for the first time, informed, that they wished a variation to be made in the

plan

plan and specific agreement before-mentioned; and it was proposed, instead thereof, that he should accept a patent appointment for life under the crown, with a salary of 1,500l. per annum, and two and a half per cent. on all future net increase of the post-office revenue beyond 240,000l. which Mr. Palmer consented to, though it was 750l. per annum less than his original agreement.

Conformably to this modification, mutually agreed to by both parties, a draft of an appointment for life under the crown was drawn up at the Treasury; and, to prevent future obstruction and injury to the public, that Mr. Palmer might be left to his own judgment in the improvement and conduct of his plan, independent of any controul whatever; this arrangement, however, did not take effect, because the attorney-general thought a new act of Parliament necessary to confirm it.

The Board of Treasury being unwilling to apply for this act, Mr. Palmer was unable to obtain a completion of this promised appointment, and proceeded in the extension of his plans with the limited authority he was obliged for the present to act with, necessarily depending on the faith and protection of his employers.

The Commissioners of Enquiry appointed by the House of Commons further reported as follows:

"The opposition which Mr. Palmer experienced from the *oldest* and *ablest* officers in the service, who represented his plan not only to be impracticable, but dangerous to commerce and the revenue, induced us

to examine and weigh with great attention the numerous documents and informations which have been furnished us by both parties, in opposition to, and in support of, the measure; in consequence whereof we are enabled to state, that Mr. Palmer has exceeded the expectations which he held forth in his first proposal, with regard to the *dispatch* and the *expence*; at the same time that the revenue is augmented, answers are returned to letters in *less* than *half* the time, and with a degree of punctuality *never* experienced before: the expence is at a less rate per mile THAN UPON THE OLD PLAN, and has been effected for 20,000l. less per annum than the sum first proposed by Mr. Palmer; and the accounts of the post-office are an undeniable proof of the great increase of its revenue in consequence of his plan.

And, after going on to state the delay, irregularity and confusion that prevailed in the office previous to the reform, and the beneficial effects arising from various and extensive improvements which he had carried into execution, they declare:

"Under these circumstances, we are of opinion, that Mr. Palmer is justly entitled to the compensation he claims, being a very small part of that revenue which his ingenuity, activity, and zeal have created, over and above the convenience and numerous collateral advantages which the public, and more particularly the commerce of the country, reap from the safe and speedy conveyance of the mails. It is presumed the Board of Treasury can produce no instance, from their earliest records, of an agreement

ment more cautiously guarded on the part of government, more advantageous to the public, or more completely executed on the part of the individual contracted with.

BEFORE THE REFORM,

The Post Office revenue, after the progress of near two centuries prior to 1783, did not exceed	£. 150,000
The number of newspapers annually sent from the London Office, was less than - -	2,000,000
A very great annual expence was formerly sustained, both by government and individuals, for expresses; and the number used annually to Bristol alone exceeded - - - - -	Two hundred expresses for that city only.
The annual expence incurred in rewards for apprehension and prosecution of mail-robberies was formerly very considerable; exclusive of loss and inconvenience to individuals, it cost the Public	Several thousand pounds.

SINCE THE REFORM,

The annual post-revenue in April 1798 had amounted to above - - -	£. 600,000
Number of newspapers now annually sent by the London office only, above - -	8,000,000
Number of expresses to the whole kingdom, both for government and individuals, when last examined, did not amount annually to -	Forty for the whole kingdom.
As to expences for apprehension and prosecution of mail-robbers, although the coaches have now travelled above forty millions of miles, not a single robbery has been committed, or a passenger insulted - - -	0 0 0

"The terms for the conveyance of the mails on a new plan, are 24,000l. per annum less than Mr. Palmer originally proposed and contracted for with government, and with a saving of 12,000l. per annum in the expences of their conveyance by the old mode."

Having laid before the House these facts, Mr. Pierrepoint read the following Opinion, given upon the fullest consideration of the whole evidence.

We have perused the evidence contained in the Report of the Committee appointed to consider of the agreement made with Mr. Palmer, for the reform and improvement of the Post Office, &c. and we are of opinion, that, by that evidence, the agreement, as insisted upon by Mr. Palmer, is proved; by which, as it was originally made, Mr. Palmer would have been entitled to the per-centage upon the increase of the nett revenue of the Post Office; and that by the agreement, as after modified, he was entitled to 1,500l. a-year, and a per centage upon the nett revenue exceeding 240,000l. a-year. And we are of opinion, that Mr. Palmer has fully performed his part of the agreement, much to the advantage of the public. We are also of opinion, (which indeed it is impossible to doubt) that if a patent had been granted to Mr. Palmer, as originally intended, nothing which has since passed could have deprived him of the benefit of his agreement; because all that is imputed now to Mr. Palmer, arises from misunderstanding and disputes between the Post-Master-General and him, and which could never have existed if a patent had been granted to him as originally intended, under which, he could not have been, in any respect, dependent on the Post-Master-General. We are also of opinion, that though by the appointment which was granted to Mr. Palmer, different from that originally intended, he was made subject to the controul of the Post-Master-General (because, by the constitution of the Post Office, as established by act of parliament, no patent could be granted to him by which he was to act independently of the Post-Master-General), yet there is nothing in the above-mentioned evidence which ought to deprive him of the benefit of his agreement, nor which would, in a court of justice, have that effect. It is established by this evidence, that the public derived from Mr. Palmer's exertions all the benefit which he had held forth as likely to accrue from them, and that he acted with diligence, and with perfect integrity in the discharge of his duty.

J. Mansfield.
T. Erskine.
V. Gibbs.
April 24, 1799. William Adam.

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He then moved some resolutions on Mr. Palmer's merits and agreement; in which, after a most interesting and animated debate, as correctly given by Woodfall in his Parliamentary Reports, it was moved, "That the chairman do leave the chair," which being carried, precluded, for that time, any determination on the resolutions. It is to be hoped, however, that in some more favourable moment justice may be done to Mr. Palmer's claims, and a due regard paid to the interests of his family; that he may be allowed to restore his plan to its original perfection (it having miserably fallen off since his suspension); and that he may be fully empowered to exert his talents, and carry his other ideas into execution for the benefit of the country.*

In addition to these extracts from the proceedings before Parliament, on a subject so interesting, we cannot but lament our want of room to insert others from the evidence on this singular case. A public

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* Mr. Pierrepoint, who moved the order of the day on the subject of the agreement with Mr. Palmer, the late Comptroller of the Post Office, after a luminous speech to prove, *a self-evident demonstration*, that the rights of that gentleman never having been forfeited were inalienable, asked the two noble Lords at the head of the Post Office, viz. Lord Walsingham and the Earl of Chesterfield, "whether they ever had any reason to entertain a doubt of the personal integrity of Mr. Palmer?" the joint answer to which was, "*No, never in the smallest degree.*"

Mr. Pierrepoint observed upon this, that nothing could be more decisive, respecting the unblemished integrity of the claimant; of course, all maleversation, from whatever quarter, or to whatever purpose, fell to the ground.

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officer who will venture to demand the strictest scrutiny and inquisition into his conduct from such a body of men as a British House of Commons, must feel tolerably secure in the consciousness of his innocence; and the event of his examination fully justified the prudence, as well as boldness of the challenge. It is evident, that if Mr. P. had not fortunately combined in himself the various requisites absolutely necessary to such an undertaking, viz. large property, with the spirit to hazard it; the various talents it required; a mind and constitution to endure so great fatigue; and a perseverance not to be overcome; together with the attachment and support of numerous friends of high rank and ability of all parties, he never could have succeeded.

By Mr. Palmer's original agreement, his compensation was simply confined to his carrying his plan into perfect and complete execution; by the subsequent modification by Mr. Pitt his reward was lessened, and his labours increased. From this it appears that he felt the necessity of rendering Mr. Palmer independent of the Post Office, that he should finish and conduct his plan according to his own ideas, and uncontrouled; that he agreed to give him those powers, and fully meant and wished to do it; but, unfortunately, an act of parliament was necessary to confirm this; and here the old establishment, and the power and connection of the office stood in the way. Had he said to Parliament, confirm my agreements, (and never surely did minister make so safe and advantageous a one) some plai country gentleman

man or other would most probably have replied—By all means—nothing can be so proper as this appointment of Comptroller-General: no man in the kingdom so fit to conduct the office as he who has so completely reformed, and, in a manner, new created it; nor can there be a wiser principle than that on which you have made the agreement, that the conductor of the plan should be advantaged in proportion to its success; and who, indeed, should conduct his plans but himself: for once let us have the man fitted to the office, and no longer the office moulded to the man. Here, unfortunately, was the rub. Governments of a certain description rarely hazard the loss of that patronage by which they are strengthened and supported. Here the minister, as we fear most ministers would have done, failed in his engagement; and hence the natural consequences to Mr. Palmer—his ruin, a complete check to further improvements, and the decay of those already effected: for was it possible for him to conduct his plan under a power that had opposed and condemned it uniformly, by every open as well as insidious means; or, with the independent spirit that has always marked his character, long remain in an office whose abuses he had so fully exposed, and drawn upon it the contempt and indignation of the whole kingdom: it was, indeed, impossible, and the very idea of it absurd. Nor can we reconcile Mr. Palmer's being left in this state, and his agreements incomplete, so much to the public loss as well as his own, with the acknowledged general ability and integrity

tegrity of the minister, but from the perplexed state of public affairs, and the various objects of greater magnitude that must have possessed his mind.—Much, certainly, is to be allowed to any man who ventures to hold that arduous situation, for the sacrifices he must himself occasionally make of his own pride, his interest, and his feelings, to support this complicated machine of government, and to the humours and the interests that he must study, gratify, and combine, of those who compose its various branches. Perhaps Mr. Palmer would have acted more prudently had he made such allowance, and had he left the discussions to a quieter time, and waited till peace had left the minister leisure and opportunity to have arranged this business, without offence to his connections, and to the permanent advantage of the public as well as of his family; nor can we now give up that idea, when we consider the original support he gave Mr. Palmer, that he made the plan in a manner his own, and is bound to protect it; the handsome manner in which he spoke of him in the debate, and his motion to prevent, at that time, the final decision upon it by the House. A noble Lord (Sheffield) remarked, in the course of an animated speech, that, as the integrity of Mr. Palmer was not impeached, and as he had executed his plan even beyond expectation, or his own proposal, no wrangles in the Post Office department should be suffered to deprive him of his promised reward; and it is the duty of Parliament to encourage and enforce the fulfilment of agreements made for the public

 benefit.

benefit. His Lordship concluded by saying, that the city which he had the honour of representing, and, he would add, the whole kingdom, are fully sensible of the great advantages that have been derived from Mr. Palmer's exertions.

By way of a summary of what has been said, it will be at once interesting and curious to see by what progressive steps Mr. Palmer proceeded in his career of establishing the mail coach system; opposing all supplantation, baffling all conspiracy, and gaining his way, inch by inch, till the difficulties attached to the undertaking in itself, and perplexed in the extreme by others, fall before a patriot spirit, an undaunted zeal, and an unwearied perseverance.

Mr. Palmer, in the course of his frequent journies, saw and felt the slowness, and the manifold imperfections, of the post; and the correspondence which he held with different friends whilst on his tours, he was often obliged to maintain by the coaches through the country; and, when he was at his residence in Bath, the great and proud house of the humble Allen, as Mr. Pope called him, was always staring him in the face, and, as he has been heard to say, tacitly reproaching him. This was a fresh circumstance that swelled the great project which was ripening in his mind; and he thought, that if Mr. Allen, by a slight alteration in the cross posts, was enabled to build such a palace, and amass such a fortune, far greater emoluments might be derived to his family, and far more extended services might be rendered to the country, by an improvement to broaden and regulate the di-

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rect posts of the kingdom. Inspired, as it were, with this idea, he prepared his mind, by degrees, for the accomplishment of this object, beginning with an examination of all the posts and post-offices in England. And now it was that he found an Herculean labour, and, as it afterwards turned out, an Augean stable, requiring more than the strength of a Hercules to cleanse it. In every part of the kingdom he found abuses of such extent and magnitude, as would not possibly be credited but by one who thus minutely analysed them. But how to remedy and bring into order this vast, irregular, and complicated machine, was a task which the more he viewed and considered, the more he was deterred from attempting. At last he made up his mind determinately to traverse the whole kingdom by the stage-coaches, wheresoever they were established; to observe the state of the roads, the time they each occupied in performing their journies in winter and summer, how they were conducted, how they might be better regulated and made suitable for the conveyance of the mails. And it may be worth observing, that in the combining the novel and complicated plan of conducting his new theatres in two cities at the same time, like that of his posts, the regulation was originally so perfectly laid down, that no deviation has, in effect, been hazarded even to this day.

In his journies over the kingdom he generally travelled, for better observation and information from the coachmen, on the outside, and has frequently witnessed the delay and danger to passengers from the frequent

frequent stoppages at public-houses, the drunkenness and brutality of drivers, decayed coaches and horses, and, from the immense weights they occasionally were loaded with: often having witnessed coaches breaking down, and cattle dying on the road.

In his progress, as occasion offered, in tolerable roads, and on carriages not overloaded, he tried how far he could obtain the time he wanted; and thus by repeatedly going over the roads, and correctly minuting down the time lost in unnecessary stoppages, and the irregular and enormous weights, ill-constructed and ill-repaired carriages, bad horses, and the ground unequally and ill-distributed in the same journies, as far as he could obtain information, he observed the defects, as well as the course of the posts, and how far he could alter and combine their various and perplexed course and business with his coaches; till he was at last fully satisfied he could form such regulations, under the power of the General Post-Office, as with a guard to see they were duly observed, and by which the mails and passengers should obtain every improvement in the posts his most sanguine hopes had inspired; and this with the most perfect safety to themselves, and the utmost humanity towards the cattle; for where these regulations are carefully observed, the labour to the horses is in general the most easy of those employed in any public carriages in the kingdom—for the post-chaise work, when there is a run on the road, and machines, by over-weights, delays, and consequent irregular driving,

ing, and being under no controul, are for ever distressing and wearing down their cattle. The regularity and speed obtained by the mail-coaches arise chiefly from no delays being suffered on the road; as the pace the horses travel does not exceed the ordinary rate obtained in the post-chaises; the distances they go are short, over the same ground, at the same hour, the same pace, with nearly an equal weight to draw, and that a light one for four horses; and it is amazing the advantage this regularity is of to the cattle, and in point of safety in dark nights, as well as punctuality, to the passenger; for no animal has a more perfect memory or fight than the horse; it has been noticed, that, by constantly going over the same ground, they often observe and avoid obstructions that have been carelessly left in the course of the day, and have been even known to have set off from an inn without the coachman, and to have run a whole stage without the driver, turning mechanically out of the way of the carriages they have met, and finishing their course without the least accident.

In the arranging of his plan, he certainly meant to have obtained greater speed and greater accommodation for the public; but as constant regularity, and a fixed hour that may be relied on for the arrival and departure of the posts as well as passengers, is an object almost as important as the speed itself, and to be secured throughout the winter as well as summer, he found he could not effect more but by a sacrifice of humanity, and at an expence inconsistent with his projected improvements of the revenue: and if the regulations

regulations he adopted are properly observed, the plan can never fall off. All this has Mr. Palmer effected; nay, as we have seen in the deliberate reports of the Commissioners of Enquiry, appointed by the House of Commons, which we have adverted to, he has *more* than fulfilled every part of his agreement with Government at 20,000*l. per annum less expence than was agreed for*. Well might Mr. Sheridan say, in his celebrated speech, when this business was before the House of Commons, with a warmth and difinterefted friendship that did him as much honour as the display of his illustrious abilities: "None but an enthusiast could have imagined or formed such a plan; none but an enthusiast could have made such an agreement; none but an enthusiast could have carried it into execution; and he was confident no man in this country, or any other, could have performed such an undertaking, but that very individual John Palmer."

And yet with equal surprise and regret we remark, that this very John Palmer has hitherto been, in a great measure, deprived of the benefits of his agreement, though the public is in possession of its numerous advantages to the correspondence, commerce, and revenue of the country; and the mail-coaches have now travelled above *fifty millions of miles without one robbery* being committed on them!

In the farther prosecution of the plan, Mr. P. had not only, as we have demonstrated, the whole power and interest of the Post-office against him, andt heir engines all over the country, but the very people who

were

were to facilitate its execution, as well as most of the principal coach-proprietors and inn-keepers, who thought the success would lessen the demand for post-chaises, or compel the coaches to adopt similar improvements; and it certainly has been the occasion of their being made far more convenient, as well as enforcing more general civil treatment. Until this plan was effected, and repeated trials had confirmed it, no one believed it possible; and the utmost that either the public or Government expected from it was, that though it *must itself fail*, it might compel some improvements in the office. And this conviction was so general, that most of Mr. P.'s friends advised him against it, laughed at his folly, or foreboded his ruin. Thus was he left without a single encouragement; his best friends scarcely venturing to bid him hope success in so mad a project. And secure as he thought himself, by various private experiments, by the plans he had formed, and every calculation, he could not help now and then doubting and fearing the fallacy of his own judgment; yet he never dared to betray those doubts to his dearest friends, or seek consolation for temporary despondency, or to speak any thing, indeed, but the language of confidence. Even after the experiment had succeeded, the opposition from the office and coach-proprietors increased proportionate to that success; and about a year after the plan was general his regulations were altered in the midst of winter by the office; the coaches were thrown into confusion, and of the contractors two or three hundred were

rebellious

rebellious, demanded higher terms, or disobeyed his orders altogether. In the midst of this his enemies triumphed in the perplexity which they had contributed to aggravate; and after Mr. Palmer had advanced several thousand pounds, the Post Office declined further accommodation altogether!

In this view of the case, who will wonder that part of the public became dissatisfied. And to close the whole mass of difficulties, Government, thinking the office might be right in their prognostics, in a manner deserted the projector. Nothing but the most manly and unshaken courage and intrepidity, the most consummate patience, and the most perfect experience obtained of the whole of the posts, the general as well as partial experiments, and the compleatness of the whole system perfected, in a mind naturally firm, dignified, resisting, and well exercised, and a very strong constitution, could have defeated these accumulated rigours of opposition. But a fear of shame on one hand, and a generous indignation on the other, at the treatment he received, enabled Mr. Palmer to rise superior to them all.

On the first idea of this plan striking the projector's mind, the writer of this article has heard his friends assert, that he thought it the easiest and simplest thing in the world, when the first vivid image of it was impressed on his mind; but, on examination, he found it for a considerable time the most difficult, complicated, and perplexed, of all his many undertakings. The only danger which those persons who, at length, began to have a good opinion of the plan they

had reprobated, was a serious apprehension (arising from the perpetual toil of thought, almost constant vexation, and perpetual motion) that his mind, being so bent and stretched to one object for so long a time, might produce a disease, for which even the gratitude of his country would be an inadequate reward; and there were certainly times when he would gladly have thrown this heavy burthen from his shoulders, and erased every idea of a post-office reform from his brain. But during this unparalleled struggle, and at the completion of the general plan, Mr. Palmer had received the handsomest public thanks, and the freedom of every place of consequence in Scotland and in Ireland, as well as in England, excepting only that of the metropolis of London, which was the only city in which the plan was opposed, though the most benefited, and from which Mr. Palmer never received the slightest compliment or support.

It has been noticed, that in the completion of this immortal project, such losses were incurred to Mr. Palmer by the total neglect of the theatres, that the price of sale was fixed on the profits from his first engaging in the post plan. All his other concerns were likewise given up; and Mr. Smith, who purchased the brewery alone, acquired a large fortune and establishment for his family from it, has frequently declared, that a hundredth part of the talent and attention paid by Mr. Palmer to that business which he devoted to the post-office plan, with the fortune and connections Mr. Palmer before enjoyed,

must

must have secured him a much larger fortune than Government has allowed him as an annuity.

On the whole, if the decision should be unfavourable to a claim of such acknowledged merit, our fears must meet those of Dr. Laurence, who in his own bold, perspicuous, and energetic language, said, "it was to be apprehended that men of talents, who might hereafter be willing to employ their genius and their industry in the service of the public, would discover only that Mr. Palmer had one fault greater than any which had been pressed against him, a fault of an over-hasty and improvident zeal to do, without regard to his own interest, whatever good it was in his power to do his country."

It is, however, most devoutly to be wished, that Mr. Palmer may yet live to enjoy the full recompence of his services to the British Empire, by the just and liberal award of a British House of Commons. In the meanwhile, the most ample and gratifying sense of his claims, public and private, are duly acknowledged by his numerous and always increasing friends, in each of whose "hearts of hearts" he has an unshaken and permanent throne.

This has been displayed, whenever by their good words or deeds they could make a return of that urbanity, activity, and judgment, which has marked the temper, conduct, and councils of Mr. Palmer. Amongst the various illustrations that might be brought in proof of this, is the distinction of being twice elected one of the representatives of his native and favourite city. If it is an honour to him to have

been chosen by the constituents with whom he has for the most part lived, and by whom his qualities have been appreciated from his youth upwards to the present moment, it is no less an honour, and, as we are sure it will continue to be, an advantage for those constituents to possess the abilities, the zeal, and the heart of such a representative.

. Mr. Palmer's person is what Sterne has called in the softer, and which is no less applicable to the stronger sex, "of the first order of statures." In his youth he was as delicately formed as was consistent with a manly texture of body; his eyes were prominently placed, and full of that vivid fire which denotes energy of mind and quickness of apprehension, and they still retain enough of those indications of a ready and vigorous spirit, mellowed by the hand of time, and, alas! by that of sorrow, which spares neither the just nor unjust. The faculties, however, of his body and mind are yet in that maturity which constitutes, both for thought and for action, an able and valuable member of the British House of Commons, of the great community of man; and the extent of his endeavours for public good, we are justified in predicting, will be bounded only by the extension of his power and of his life.

From residing many years at Bath, Mr. Palmer has enjoyed a most extensive acquaintance; and so worthy is his heart, so open his mind, and so inviting his manners, that his friendships are scarcely less numerous than his acquaintance. He has maintained an unbroken intimacy with most of the first

people

people of the country, and with men of talents of all parties. In this intercourse, he has acquired a general knowledge of people of all characters and descriptions, which was of infinite consequence to him in promoting and carrying on his grand national plan, by influencing and encouraging the minds and governing the passions of such a body of men, even more difficult to rule than a company of comedians, the proprietors of the mail coaches.

No man has ever observed the least change of character or conduct in Mr. Palmer in any situation, however prosperous or adverse; and it may be also said of him, that, as he never remembered an injury, so he never forgot an obligation.

And it is amongst the rare instances of a truly great character escaping that malicious rapacity which all greatness more or less creates, that even those who in the Commons' House of Parliament most strongly opposed the benefit of the nation in opposing the post-office plan, bore honourable testimony to the worth and talents of the projector; nor was there a single hand or voice in the multitude that forms that house which was raised against the man, however they might attempt to obstruct the measure.

LORD MINTO.

THE Elliots are a family of great antiquity in the south of Scotland, where the chiefs of the race were never known in a condition inferior to that of military tenants of the crown, or of the Douglasses, Humes, or Scotts. There are two principal branches of the family; the Elliots of Minto, and the Elliots of Stobbs. The celebrated Elliot who fought and conquered Thurot, a younger brother of one of these families, died not many years since, an old admiral. Lord Heathfield, the famous defender of Gibraltar, was another ornament of the same race and name. Nor are there wanting among the persons who have merited distinction, in the last century, a number of others who do honour to the same descent.

Lord Minto is the third in an unbroken succession of great statesmen, who have been at the head of the family of which he is now the principal representative. His grandfather, Sir Gilbert Elliot, was a judge in the supreme courts of justice civil and criminal, in Scotland. He was distinguished for the rectitude of his decisions, and for the erudition, strength, and acuteness of his law arguments. The affections of the Scots were, in his time, still divided between the exiled Stuarts and the house of Hanover; and, in this situation of affairs, his loyalty and wisdom were eminently proved in the support of the revolution and union settlements, and in his vigilance to defeat every hope of the Jacobites. His son also,

Sir

Sir Gilbert Elliot, dedicating his talents wholly to the service of his country in parliamentary and political employments, attained to conspicuous distinction as an orator in the House of Commons, and held, at different times, high secondary offices in administration. He was, in the year 1763, treasurer of the chamber in England, and had obtained the reversion of the office of keeper of the signet in Scotland. As a Scotsman enjoying such appointments, he fell under the satire of Wilkes, in the famous North Briton. But, so pure and so truly respectable was his character, that the satirist could find no topic of reproach to use against him, but that he was a Scotsman, in the administration, and received some emoluments for his services.

His son, now Lord Minto, was born April 23, 1751. His early education was domestic. And as the connections and views of his family created, even then, a probability that he might, in manhood, be engaged in public life, chiefly on the great theatre of affairs in England; he was, therefore, put to follow out the higher courses of instruction at an English free school, and an English university. It is desireable, that every British gentleman should, as was anciently usual for every eminent citizen of Rome, join to the advantages of a civil and literary, those also of a military education. Mr. Elliot, probably in consideration of this, was at an early age enrolled in the army, and even promoted to the rank of captain, before he was much more than ten years old. To complete his education, as he was advancing to mature

manhood, he visited those parts of the continent, over which it is commonly thought fit, that our young men of fortune should travel before they engage in business or settle in the world, in order that they may acquire a due personal knowledge of the general state of European life and policy.

In the year 1774, he was elected into the British House of Commons. The era was important, critical, big with great events.

The colonies of Great Britain in North America, had, for their founders, men, whose ambition of uncontrouled adventure preferred all difficulties and dangers, to the humility of living at home in quiet submission to the laws, and in the common forms of English life. Persons, who, making religion the supreme rule both of civil and political life, and owning in religion, no earthly, no visible, superior guides, were therefore, republican and democratical in their notions of government, became the second class of colonists that went to occupy those regions. They were followed by Roman Catholics, escaping from persecution that provoked their minds almost to a puritan's spirit of freedom, even in spite of the religious principles to which they cherished an attachment. To these were added, from time to time, numbers of the guilty and the miserable, driven into exile by the criminal justice of their country, by poverty, or by a restlessness the fruit of disappointment and sorrow. Intermingled with the colonists of British and Irish descent, were many foreigners, aliens to the British name, and, though taking refuge

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under the protection of our government, not apt to contract habits of submissive attachment to its authority. This mixed assemblage of colonists long continued to feel their dependence on the mother country, scarcely in any other way than by the benefits which it conferred on them. No authority was exercised over the colonies, save what was absolutely necessary to preserve them in the order requisite to the security of domestic life, and to protect them from the injuries of the foreign tribes and nations surrounding their territory. No taxes were imposed but those which they themselves levied for the small unavoidable expenditure of their internal government. Britain derived from their existence, no pecuniary emoluments but those which arose from the monopoly of their commerce,—emoluments which were much more than compensated by the quantity of British capital that was, from time to time, transferred to America, and there permanently fixed in buildings, trading-establishments, and agricultural improvements. From a dependence so advantageous, even those of the colonists who were the most indifferent to the welfare of the mother-country could have small temptation to break off. Yet, while the population of the colonies became more numerous, and their political strength more distinct and vigorous, they began, by degrees, to give intimations of a hope, that their obedience to British jurisdiction should not be perpetual. In the war of 1756, they felt their own strength, and evinced their importance in the military exertions of the mother-country. But,

the same appearances which erected the minds of the colonists to the ambition of independence, excited the British Government to attempt to confirm over them its power by a more vigorous exercise of it, and to draw from them a new taxation, applicable not to their own immediate government only, but to the general expenditure of the whole state. The imposition of an internal tax, to be levied under the authority of a *stamp-act*, gave the first decisive indication of these new intentions respecting the colonies. It might be unjust, upon that natural principle, which forbids governments to extort, in any mode of taxation, from their subjects, more than is, in reason, necessary for the expences of the administration: It might be inexpedient, as likely to create dissension and civil war at a time when we should rather have strengthened ourselves, by closer domestic union, against our foreign enemies: But, by the charters of the colonies, by the constitutional laws of the British empire, by the state of the accustomed exercise of the power of the general legislature, it was, undoubtedly, so far and so clearly lawful, that it violated no right of convention which the colonies then possessed. Yet, partly by questioning the right of the mother-country to impose such an internal tax, and in part by complaining of evils peculiarly attending this instance of the exercise of that right; adding, at the same time, to complaint and argument, the keenest threats of resistance; the colonists prevailed with a ministry, infirm in power and uncertain in counsel, to rescind the obnoxious act. The repeal of that act

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was, however, accompanied with an express assertion, that it had been rightfully imposed. And scarcely had that tumult of opposition which it excited in America been calmed, when a new attempt was made to exercise the same right in the less troublesome and provoking mode of the imposition of a custom duty, to be levied on certain goods on their importation into the colonial ports. This attempt kindled a flame of resistance even fiercer than that which opposed the stamp-act. The colonists left it no longer doubtful whether they would submit to taxation in any form by the Legislature of the mother-country. The British government hesitated to proceed, yet was ashamed to yield. But to relinquish all pretension to the right, would, as it seemed, be feebly to abandon, in fact, the whole sovereignty of the colonies without a struggle: and this it would not be too late to do, if it should prove ultimately unavoidable, after making every effort to compel submission by military force. It was at the great crisis when the British Government was taking arms to subdue colonial rebellion, that Mr. Elliot came first into Parliament.

The members of the Legislature were far from being unanimous in the resolution to assert its supreme authority over the refractory colonies. The Opposition, against which Mr. Elliot chose to take part, was actuated by views of interest, by considerations of public expediency, by opinions concerning the principles of liberty and the just powers of governments, all peculiar, for the time, to those of whom it

was composed. The boldest principles, in regard to general liberty, have, from the earliest times, prevailed in Britain. Except while the isle was under the arbitrary sway of the Roman Emperors, liberty has been, at all times, practically established in the different constitutions of political society which have here been successively known. In the Saxon times, it was the state alone, not the prince, that had rights over the lands or services of freemen: and those rights of sovereignty, being only such as seemed to barbarians indispensibly necessary to the maintenance of internal order and to defence against foreign enemies, encroached but little upon the natural liberties of the people. Under that perfect feodism which, after a train of previous approaches to it, was finally established in England by the Norman conquest; the tenure of the lands was, indeed, primarily from the king, and he had a right arbitrarily to exact those services which the tenant was, by his charter, bound to pay; but so few were usually those services, and so entirely free from his prince's controul was every feudal vassal in all other respects; that, to those who lived not in a state of villanage or slavery, the feudal government was, perhaps, in its legal order and energy, a condition of more unrestrained freedom than was known in that to which it had succeeded. As new civilization advanced, the feudal chiefs were gradually divested of those proud rights by which they had been almost independent of their sovereign, while, on the other hand, the villains were emancipated, and raised to share the liberties of those who

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had been their lords. In the reigns of Elisabeth and James I. the House of Commons, representing in the Legislature, all that part of the community which derived not their rights from having anciently held high military offices under the crown, acquired a weight and authority in the constitution, by which the benefits of freedom were diffused as extensively, and rendered as secure to the whole people, as was possible in the general state of intelligence, industry, and virtue, as they then prevailed in this isle. They who had been emancipated from villanage aspired to depress to their own level those who had once been the only freemen in the land. They who saw their feudal prerogatives abridged, were ambitious to restore these to their ancient importance. Motives of private and individual interest and resentment gave an activity to those more general and apparently patriotic ones, by which the strength of the nation was hurried into the Grand Rebellion. By the new settlement of the constitution and government, which at length ensued, the legislative authority was, in fact, so distributed, as to establish in the Legislature, and in that public opinion of which it is the organ, a permanent opposition to the influence, direct and indirect, of the crown, whether exercised in procuring the institution of new laws, or in guiding the ordinary execution of those which before existed; an opposition not essentially different from that which raised the civil war, otherwise than as being less furious in republican zeal and less energetic in its powers of mischief, but, on the other hand, less uncertain in its existence,

existence, and adopted into the very substance of the constitution. The reigns of the two brothers, Charles and James, were employed in one continued struggle to subdue it. It triumphed in the Revolution, and, by this triumph, introduced into the government a respect for the liberties of the people, by which freedom was made as general, and raised as high, as the state of intelligence, virtue, and industry, in the country could possibly allow. Opposition to the measures of government, in the legislature and in public opinion, might have ceased with the Revolution: but the private interests which gave all its activity could never be destroyed: and, besides, that very event itself gave birth to new prejudices and new political opinions, by which the wonted divisions were easily maintained. Upon the accession of the House of Hanover, a majority of those who substantially represented the the old feudal nobility, acquired all that efficient power which the feudal nobles had, in ancient times, often striven to usurp. Till the attachment to the Stewarts was, at last, extinguished in almost every breast, the aristrocacy successfully maintained a power which towered above the just authority of the crown, while it seemed to oppress the just liberties of the people. Upon the accession of our present sovereign, the power of the executive government, was wrested from that aristrocatical combination; and they were, at the same time, driven from their wonted ascendency in the legislature. In their struggle to regain the power which they had lost, they were not unwilling to con-

jure up a storm, which they believed that they themselves might, at any time, easily lay. They hence resumed, for a time, those wild principles of liberty which had never been seriously maintained but in the midst of the great civil war, and in the very crisis of the Revolution, and taught the American colonists to ſpeak in a tone of high remonſtrance, and to determine on an obstinacy of resistance which, otherwise, their own interests and passions might not have given them resolution to adventure upon.

Sir Gilbert Elliot, though of a family of Whigs, was not led in his first engagements in political life, to foment the colonial rebellion, or to take any part with the Whig Aristocracy, in parliamentary opposition. His father was still alive; and was of that party who had the denomination of the KING'S FRIENDS, from their supposed readiness to sacrifice their own connexions and opinions, at all times, to the wishes of their prince. To subdue even by war the refractory temper of the colonists, is, even now, ſaid to have been a measure dear to the Sovereign himself, even more than to any of his ministers. Of course, the KING'S FRIENDS,—the Earl of Mansfield, Lord Clare, afterwards Earl Nugent, Lord Barrington, the late Lord Mendip, the present Earl of Liverpool, Sir Gilbert Elliot, the father of him who is the subject of this memoir, and others of inferior consequence, who followed those as their leaders,—earnestly promoted every bold measure which tended to push the contest into a state in which the Americans might no longer be able to pretend that they were not in open rebel-

lion; and then to attack the rebellion with a force by which it should be at once overpowered. The son was not unworthy of his father's reputation for ability. And, while many young men of splendid talents, high connexions, and distinguished fashion, were eagerly joining the ranks, it could not but be peculiarly acceptable to a ministry who felt that they were treading on perilous ground, on which every advancing step became more uncertain than the last, and where their numbers were liable to be every day thinned by new desertions to the party of the Opposition.

The ministers, with their adherents, were conscious of good intentions. A majority of the nation long approved and encouraged their efforts. Having once commenced a resistance to bloodſhed, the inhabitants of the American provinces sought to support that resistance by an alliance with the most inveterate enemies of the Britiſh name; which, while it threatened the ruin of our political greatness, excited againſt them an exasperated indignation throughout these kingdoms, greatly exceeding whatever had before been felt. But the Government was fearful in its enterprizes, and feeble in its preparations. Half measures were employed till it became too late to resort even to the most vigorous ones with success. On the one hand, to avoid the imputation of using a mighty force againſt the Americans with too much of the impetuosity of despotism; and on the other hand, not to alarm the jealousy of the other Powers of Europe, troops were sent over by handfuls;

fuls; till the success of the rebellion, and the feebleness of the mother country's efforts excited every rival nation to take up arms, in the belief that the moment had arrived which was to prove ultimately fatal to British greatness. In this uncertain progress of national affairs, the parliamentary Opposition became continually bolder, and more powerful. They had at first exclaimed against the tyranny and injustice of compelling the submission of the colonists by force of arms; and they now complained not less of the feebleness, than of the system of the measures which were employed. The ministers became continually more timid and uncertain in their councils; and those who had been the firmest adherents began, in respect to the safety of the Empire, to think it necessary that the executive powers of the Government should be entrusted to other hands. Sir Gilbert Elliot, in this state of public affairs, at last joined the Opposition. Lord North and his friends retired from office. Upon the union of those Whigs, almost democratical in their principles, who had been formed into a party under the auspices of the great Earl of Chatham, with the remains of that great aristocratical body which ruled the empire under Walpole and the Pelhams, there was formed a new administration, and a new parliamentary majority, in which the ancient and exclusive ascendency of the Whigs seemed to be again restored.

The death of the Marquis of Rockingham at a critical period, suddenly broke this great confederacy. A coalition between the parties of Fox and North, the Aristocratical Whigs and the Opposition Tories,

soon afterwards took place, and Sir Gilbert Elliot adhering to the party of Fox, joined the bands of the Coalition and shared its temporary triumph.

Amidst attempts to secure to the Aristocracy a power in the government which should defy the displeasure of the Crown, the Coalition were, in consequence of an appeal from the monarch to the jealousies and the wishes of the people, compelled once more to abandon those reins of power which they had hoped should never again be wrested from them. With many other wise and good men, Sir Gilbert Elliot continued faithful to his party in its misfortunes and disgrace. It was the fidelity of honour and of virtue; and was beheld with respect even by those who might have wished to entice him to a different side.

In the endeavours of the party of the Coalition to humble that of the new Aristocracy, which seemed to have arisen in what was called the *India Interest*; in their attempts to win the people back to their side, by swerving to a certain length into democratical Whiggism; in their hopes to strengthen themselves on the authority of the Heir-Apparent to the Crown; in their opposition to a war, on behalf of Turkey, with the power of Russia and its allies; in their efforts to maintain what really was the constitutional right of the Prince of Wales to the constant succession to the authority of Regent, on any sudden incapacitation of the reigning Sovereign; and in all their other leading measures, whether to serve their country or to restore themselves to official power, Sir Gilbert Elliot bore, of course, no undistinguished part.

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He was deservedly dear to his political associates, of whom it were difficult to say whether he most engaged the affection or commanded esteem. They desired to raise him to the office of Speaker of the House of Commons, a situation in which he might do honour to their party, while he should, at the same time, perform the most important services to his country, and find the full gratification of his own laudable ambition.—They believed that his virtues, with his skill in the duties and forms of Parliament, might conciliate the good-will even of those to whom he was in political opposition. But they were disappointed in the attempt to raise him to the Speaker's chair. Yet, in the the disappointment, his honour was not less than if he had actually succeeded. The minority, whose voices were in his favour rose, unexpectedly near to the numbers of the majority. And, though men of great worth and talents were proposed for his competitors, it was, on all hands, owned, that none could be more worthy than he, of the office to which he had, in this instance, aspired.

The Opposition, with which he acted, had taken some steps, probably without perceiving to what consequences they led, but which could not have been followed out without effecting a democratical change in the constitution. They had taken those steps chiefly to win back the favour of the people, who had, in the most critical state of their fortunes, so fatally deserted them. But when the French revolution excited an impatience for innovation, such as, in the opinion of many, to menace the sudden

overthrow of our whole establishment, civil and political, those very persons who had the most zealously proposed associations for reform, no sooner saw the danger, than they were the most forward seasonably to strengthen the authority of the Crown, even though it was administered by their political adversaries. With these men Sir Gilbert Elliot, zealously disposed to act on the same principles, withdrew from the ranks of the Opposition.

At first his co-operation with ministers, in this new coalition, was merely legislative. But at a crisis when the active services of every man of distinguished virtue, rank, and talents, were urgently required to support the cause which they had espoused, and protect the endangered existence of the British Constitution and Empire, the first occasion was seized for calling forth his abilities to employment.

While France was distracted by all the furies of Democracy, Toulon was surrendered to the British fleet by its own Government, and the fleet in its harbour was destroyed. The inhabitants of Corsica sought to ally themselves to Britain, by putting themselves under the sovereignty of her Monarch. Sir Gilbert Elliot having, on the 25th of September, 1793, taken the oaths as a Privy-Councillor, was, on the 13th of the same month, nominated a commissioner for carrying into effect those intentions which his Majesty had graciously conceived in regard to the Corsicans. Bastia, Calvi, and all the fortified places in Corsica, were early in the year 1794 surrendered by the French to the British arms. The King accepted the proffered sovereignty

reignty of the isle; and on the 19th of June, 1794, Sir Gilbert Elliot, as his Viceroy, presided in a General Assembly of the Corsicans, in which a code of constitutional laws was adopted for the political arrangement of society in the isle, that (though it be commonly said by those who have but slightly inspected it to have been extremely democratical,) was, in substance, not more so than the present Constitution of Great Britain, and approached, indeed, as near to the essential character of the British Constitution, as was possible under the diversity of the circumstances of the people of Corsica from those under which we live. Agreeing to this constitution, in the name of the Sovereign whom he represented; Sir Gilbert Elliot, in a speech of great wisdom, dignity, and winning conciliation, recommended to the Corsicans to live quietly under it, and to value aright the advantages they had gained by putting themselves under the protection of the same Sovereign, who was the executor of the laws and the guardian of the liberties of Great Britain.

To this recommendation, those who had been the leaders in calling in the interposition of the British arms were sufficiently disposed to listen. But there remained in the isle a great party who still preferred the alliance of France. For some time, the wise, vigilant, and humane government of the Viceroy, with the authority of the British successes in those seas, maintained the new settlement of the Corsican Government in perfect force. But, in the year 1796, the triumph of the French arms in Italy encouraged those inhabitants of Corsica who adhered to the

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French interests, to rise in arms against the British power. An insurrection at Bastia was happily suppressed on the 8th of June, 1796. But its spirit could not be subdued: the French became continually abler to encourage and support it. And in the month of October, 1796, it was thought proper to abandon a dominion which had been possessed only for the benefit of an ungrateful and refractory people, whom it was no longer possible to hold in due submission without enslaving and destroying them. The Viceroy returned to England early in the year 1797. What prudence, moderation, energy, and vigilance could do, had been done by him in his government, to support the honour of his Sovereign, and of the people of that isle. His services were approved by his Royal Master. He was on the 26th of October, 1797, raised to the British Peerage, under the title of Lord or Baron of Minto, in the shire of Roxburgh. To commemorate the importance of his services in Corsica, he received at the same time special permisson to adopt the arms of Corsica into the armorial bearing of his family.

For a short time he continued at home, discharging the duties only of a Privy-Councillor and a member of the Upper House of the Legislature. But in 1799, circumstances demanded the presence of an Ambassador of his tried discretion and experienee at the Court of Vienna, at that time the scene of the most interesting and difficult diplomatic business which the British Ministry had to transact abroad. On the 2d of July, 1797, he was appointed to this embassy. While the last efforts were made to sub

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due the French power in Italy, in Switzerland, in Holland, in its incursions into the interior territories of Germany, Lord Minto continued to perform all that was, by negotiation, by persuason, by encouragement, possible, to retain the interests of Britain and Austria in close and beneficial union. It was by him that the consent of Britain to the Treaty of Luneville was signified to the Austrian Court at a time when Austria's powers of continued resistance seemed to be, for the moment, entirely exhausted.

His sagacity and eloquence were eminently displayed in parliament, when the consitutional and legislative union of Ireland with Great Britain was proposed in the House of Peers. His speech, on that occasion, has been since published. Nothing could more clearly or ably explain the reason and expediency of that measure for which he was a strenuous advocate.

When the peace of Amiens came to be negotiated, Lord Minto was among those who inclined to think, that the preliminaries, and even the treaty itself, did not afford all that security to the future peace of Europe, which it became the British ministry, at all perils, steadily to demand.

As he had been an advocate for the union with Ireland, so he was among those, who most earnestly regretted the impossibility there was to fulfil those conditions of Catholic emancipation, on which a considerable portion of the people of Ireland were supposed to have given to the treaty of union their express tacit consent.

At the age of fifty-one years, in the maturity of his

his faculties and experience, he is still qualified to merit new gratitude and honours from his country. He still cherishes and acts upon the same principles which he espoused in early life; principles which approve the union of constitutional liberty with an executive authority in the hands of the Sovereign, adequate to every fit purpose of internal order and exterior defence.

In private life, his manners and conduct are amiable, elegant, and correct. He delights in polite literature, and in that history and philosophy which have the most immediate and useful relations to the elucidation of national affairs. He is attentive to rural improvements on his estates; and is skilled in the branches and principles of English gardening. He has ever lived in agreeable intercourse with his neighbours in the country, and has been accustomed to notice clergymen of merit living near him, with many kind and flattering attentions.

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THE END.

T. Gillet, Printer, Salisbury-Square.